ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

Two queens and a king should a hit series make; direk on pins and needles

NEWS / A2

SC gives Ombudsman 45 days to finish Comelec probe

NEWS / A16

No classes in all levels in Metro and five other regions

NEWS / A16

Strong rains cause 8 landslides in Baguio; 2 missing

Bombay picks up pieces after bombings kill 190

BOMBAY, INDIA—INDIAN INVESTIGATORS ON Wednesday combed through the twisted and torn wreckage of train cars ripped apart a day earlier by well-coordinated bombings that killed 190 people and wounded hundreds during the city's evening rush hour.

The eight bombs tore through packed trains, stunning the bustling port city of Bombay (Mumbai) that embodies India's global ambitions and

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, July 13, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 215 P18 online: www.inq7.net

Vanuatu happiest place on Earth; RP ranks 17

LONDON—THE TINY South Pacific Ocean archipelago of Vanuatu is the happiest country on Earth, according to a study that measures quality of life against environmental impact.

Among 178 nations,

US jails GMA point man

Ex-Agri Undersecretary Bolante's extradition urged

KEY TO P1-B FERTILIZER SCAM: In a California jail for the past six days, Bolante has to pay bail of $100,000 for his temporary release.

By TJ Burgonio and Nikko Dizon

CALLS FOR EXTRADITION WERE AIRED YESTERDAY AS news broke that the former agriculture undersecretary embroiled in the P728-million fertilizer fund scam had been arrested on visa matters in the United States.

Senate President Franklin Drilon who had called on the government to seek the extradition of Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, who had defied summonses from the chamber for months and whom it subsequently ordered arrested last year.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who was en route to the Philippines from Spain when reached by the Inquirer, offered a similar view: "[Bolante] probably violated US laws. No matter, we need him here to put a closure to the fertilizer scam."

"Good development," Pimentel added in a text message, referring to Bolante's arrest. "It gives him a chance to clarify where the over P1 billion in fertilizer money for the farmers went, and who benefited from it."

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the Senate committee that looked into the fund scam, also said the government should seek Bolante's extradition so he could face investigation before the Ombudsman.

"But I don't know if [it has] the will," Magsaysay said in a phone interview.

UB/BLD A6

OPLAN TRIDENT

'Magdalo plotted special operation vs 20 Arroyo allies'

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Luigi A. del Puerto

"OPERATION PLAN TRIDENT," allegedly the latest plot by rebel soldiers to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo was supposed to target 20 allies of the President.

The Army and Philippine National Police spokespersons yesterday said the plot, named after a three-pronged spear associated with the Greek god of the sea, Poseidon, was exposed in documents seized following the capture on July 7 of six renegade soldiers in a safe house near the Batasang Pambansa complex that they were supposed to storm and where they would seize lawmakers as hostages in a bid to oust Ms Arroyo.

A document released to reporters said one of the objectives of the operation was to embarrass Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., the Army chief and incoming chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, among other well-known personalities in the Arroyo administration.

Esperon, who had served as chief of the Presidential Security Group, was one of four generals implicated in the "Hello Garci" wiretaps that the opposition said were evidence Ms Arroyo stole the May 2004 presidential election.

MAGDALO A4

Senga's defense lost in translation

By Christine O. Avendaño

"NOBODY CAN HARM ME."

Which does not translate to the outgoing Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga as "untouchable" but as "no one has a hold on me."

That did Senga clothed himself after a military panel probing the Feb. 24 coup attempt alleged that he waited two hours before calling an emergency meeting of the service commanders after learning about the plot.

The military report does not say if Senga immediately alerted Ms Arroyo to the planned withdrawal of support of the Scout Rangers, Marines and the Special Action Forces on Feb. 24.

Senga, who was the guest of honor at the turnover of command of Col. Ramon Pruncio as the

SENGA'S A1

STORM-TOSSED LIFE

Florica's fury drives the homeless like Jacky Obarco to seek warmth and shelter with her children Jan Louie, 3, and Mauro, 1, and their pet cat and clog beside a mall near the Manila Yacht Club on Roxas Boulevard.

Vidal, 2 bishops spurned Pagcor cash

By Christian V. Esguerra

LEADERS OF THE INFLUENTIAL Roman Catholic hierarchy in the Philippines are no strangers to the Arroyo administration's generosity, if documents from the state-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) are any indication.

In September 2005, Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Archbishops Angel Lagdameo and Paciano Aniceto were each offered cash donations of between P300,000 and P500,000. All three refused the "financial assistance," according to copies of the documents obtained by the Inquirer from a Pagcor insider who asked not to be named for security reasons.

Stamped on each check voucher was the word "cancelled," meaning, the insider explained, the amounts did not reach the intended recipients.

The cash donations were many times higher than the amount contained in envelopes that supposed messengers of Malacañang tried to distribute to members of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines during their plenary assembly in Manila last weekend.

VIDAL A2

HAIL TO THE CHIEFS: The Commander in Chief looks up to the incoming AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon who replaces Gen. Generoso Senga (left) on July 21.

PREMIUM ON LOYALTY

Esperon next AFP chief of staff; Lapus new education secretary

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

UNWAVERING LOYALTY HAS become the overriding factor in President Macapagal-Arroyo's choices for sensitive military and Malacañang posts after fending off a Cabinet mutiny and quashing a leftist-rightist coup attempt in the last 12 months.

"Loyalty has a very high premium," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita after the announcement the President had named Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon as the next chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus as the new education secretary.

"I can only surmise that the framers of Constitution knew that in the choice of Cabinet members, the Armed Forces and the police, the President [has] the sole prerogative to choose because that it is absolutely critical," Ermita said.

"So in the military, the commander alone is responsible for the accomplishment of her objectives so she has to choose people who could help her," he said.

Upon his appointment as Army chief last year, Esperon had already been touted to be the most likely successor of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga because of the instrumental role he played in the President's victory in the 2004 elections as claimed by opposition who cited the "Hello Garci" tape as basis.

Esperon, who previously headed Ms Arroyo's Presidential Security Group, was recruited by former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano in his wiretapped conversation with the President.

Lapus is one of Ms Arroyo's staunchest defenders in the House of Representatives. Ermita has openly credited Lapus for "marketing" the passage of the fiscal reform package in the House last year.

"The President is looking at their track record ... she did not think twice in recruiting them," Ermita said.

He denied that the President made loyalty her most desired virtue among her men in reaction to the sudden resignation of her most trusted Cabinet secretaries and government executives—collectively known as the Hyatt 10—on July 8, 2005.

Their move heightened calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

"We hardly consider them as a

ESPERON A2

A2
WEATHER FORECAST
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Second FRONTPAGE
THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2006

New SC deadline for Ombudsman

By Armando N. Nicozar and Nelson S. Flores

THE SUPREME COURT WANTS the Office of the Ombudsman to finally determine in 45 days whether there is a strong ground to pursue the impeachment and graft charges against officials of the Commission on Election involved in the anomalous P1.3-billion poll automation deal.

In a four-page resolution, the high tribunal gave the Office of the Ombudsman a "non-extendible period of 45 days from June 30, 2006 or until Aug. 14, 2006, within which to comply fully with the May 3, 2006 resolution of this court."

Last May 3, the high court ordered the Ombudsman not to make "its final determination whether probable cause exists against any of the public officials involved" in the Mega-Pacific computerization deal by June 30.

The SC voided the poll automation deal in January 2004, saying the Comelec had disregarded the law and its bidding procedures when it awarded the project to Mega-Pacific.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez beat the June 30 deadline but singled out Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra as being liable for allowing Mega-Pacific to take part in the bidding for the project.

Gutierrez also ordered the dismissal of five middle level Comelec officials and members of the poll body's bids and awards committee which authorized the purchase of the automated counting machines from Mega-Pacific.

But the Ombudsman was silent on Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and retired Commissioners Luzviminda Tancinco, Rufino Javier, Ralph Lauzon and Mehol Sadain and current Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. who appointed the assistant on April 11, 2005.

In its July 11 resolution, the high court said the Ombudsman only "partially complied" with the court's order.

The Ombudsman, however, said that since Gutierrez only attained her post last Dec. 3, she needed more time to make a "complete determination of the existence or non-existence of probable cause."

Starting today, the Ombudsman will start a weekly public hearing on the controversial poll contract.

The hearing will start at 10 a.m. at the CCB Conference Room of the Office of the Ombudsman. **Members of the media will be invited to observe the** proceedings. With a report from Jerome Aning

SOLDIERS CRY, TOO: Pursing lips tears in the eyes of Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit as he bids goodbye to his senior at the emotional turnover of command of the Presidential Security Group at the PSG compound in Malacañang. He has been assigned as assistant division commander of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal. His replacement as PSG chief is Air Force Col. Bonnie Prestoza (above).

Panel sought impeachment of Abalos et al

By Norman Bordadora

A PANEL THAT PROBED THE LIABILity of Commission on Elections officials in the anomalous P1.3 billion poll automation deal had recommended in 2005 the impeachment of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos and all Comelec commissioners, except Commissioner Rufino Javier.

The four-man panel, formed by then Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo in 2004 and headed by Director Joegido Galarze, submitted its findings to then Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez for approval on June 20, 2005.

"With regard to the liability of the Comelec chairman and commissioners, this Office finds that probable cause exists for charging them with a violation of Section 3 (e) [of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act]," read a copy of the panel resolution left unsigned since it was submitted in 2005.

A copy of the document was furnished the Inquirer by former Senate President Jovito Salonga in the wake of the June 30 resolution signed by Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez that recommended the impeachment of Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and other Comelec officials.

A spokesperson for the Office of the Ombudsman said that Abalos and the other Comelec commissioners are "still the subject of further investigation."

Salonga's Kilusang Bayan organization was among those that filed corruption and plunder charges against the Comelec officials after the Supreme Court voided the poll automation deal with Mega Pacific consortium in January 2006.

None of the panel's members signed the Gutierrez resolution which was meant to beat the June 30 deadline set by the Supreme Court for the Ombudsman to resolve the case.

"This shows there is no internal strife inside the Office of the Ombudsman," Salonga said, quoting this source.

The Galarze panel excluded Javier because "[he] appears to have not participated in the award of the project as he was then on official business trip."

Borra was the commissioner-in-charge that approved the award of the Comelec's purchases of automated counting machines to Mega Pacific, Inc. his being recommended by the poll body's bids and awards committee.

Borra was the commissioner-in-charge that approved the award of the Comelec's purchases of automated counting machines to Mega Pacific, Inc. his being recommended by the poll body's bids and awards committee.

The panel also noted the failure of MPC's automated counting machines to meet the 99.995 percent accuracy rating as mandated by the automation law.

The Galarze panel, however, found no probable cause to find the commissioners liable for plunder since there was no evidence that they amassed wealth worth P50 million or more from the deal.

While it found the Comelec chair and the commissioners, except Javier, liable for corrupt practices, the panel said it could not recommend "outright prosecution in judicial courts" against the election commissioners.

The panel also recommended graft cases against Comelec Director Lucenito Tagliadi, Tancinco and Ralph Lauzon who were also involved in the Mega-Pacific deal.

Abalos had inhibited himself from the Ombudsman's deliberations on the failed Comelec deal with Mega-Pacific and had ordered Tagliadi to oversee the process.

But said Gutierrez's appointment, Fernandez had failed to sign the documents, according to Salonga quoting sources in the Ombudsman.

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SC rejects Romualdez bid to regain 2 Equitable posts

By Armando N. Nicozar

THE SUPREME COURT HAS REJECTED THE bid of lawyer Ferdinand Marcos Romualdez, a son of Imelda "Kokoy" Romualdez, to be restored to his positions as vice chair of the Equitable PCIB Bank (EPCIB) and chair of the bank's trust committee.

In an en banc resolution dated July 11 and released yesterday, the high court said Romualdez, who represents the family-owned Tiano Middle East Equities' (TMEE) shareholdings in the bank, had misinterpreted the SC's order June 9 ruling upholding the TMEE's right to a seat in the board.

Romualdez filed a motion on June 21 asking the SC to direct the EPCIB board to make "full compliance" of its June 9 ruling by installing him in his previous post and restoring all his rights and privileges as vice chair.

In a ruling signed by Clerk of Court Atty. Luzu Villaruma, the high court clarified that its June 9 decision merely ordered the EPCIB board of directors "to recognize the nominees or representatives of TMEE" as a member of the board of directors "with all the rights and privileges appertaining to the position."

Board seat, nothing more

According to the court, the word "position" referred to membership in the board of directors and not, as claimed by Romualdez, to his right to the vice chairmanship of the bank.

"TMEE proceeds from a nonsensical premise. All the Court mandated was that Romualdez (as TMEE's nominee) be recognized as a member of the board of directors and nothing more," the SC said.

The court explained that under Section 28 of the Corporation Code, it is the directors of the corporation who elect corporate officers who, excepting the president, generally need not even be directors themselves.

"While TMEE may have been put via disadvantage since its representative was not able participate in the election of Equitable-PCI Bank's officers, it certainly would not follow that such representative had a right to election as an officer since the discretion to elect corporate officers belongs solely to the board of directors," the resolution said.

The high court also argued similarly in denying the TMEE petition to restore Romualdez to his former committee memberships.

The SC said the EPCIB board of directors had the sole discretion to organize the committees of the corporation.

The issue stems from a June 9 resolution of the SC nullifying the May 23 resolution of the Sandiganbayan disqualifying the Romualdez family from voting the TMEE's shares in the bank at the annual stockholders meeting scheduled for May 23.

Voting 11 to nil, the high court ordered the EPCIB to admit and recognize the TMEE nominee to the board in place of the person who was elected board director during the May 23 meeting.

TMEE owns 31,027,640, or 7.13 percent, of the outstanding capital of the EPCIB, the result of the controversial 1999 acquisition by the then Equitable Bank of the much bigger PCIBank owned by the Lopez family and John Gokongwei.

Contested shares

The TMEE ownership of the shares is being contested by the Lopez family which claims that the PCI Bank shares were part of of a bigger hoard of Lopez assets that Kokoy Romualdez seized from the family during the martial law regime of the late dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos. Kokoy Romualdez is the brother of the dictator's widow, Imelda.

After the 1986 people power revolution, the Presidential Commission on Good Government sequestered the TMEE shares in the then PCI Bank. They are included in the cases that the PCGG is seeking to recover from Kokoy Romualdez et al in Civil Case No. 0033 filed with the Sandiganbayan. The Lopez family filed a motion to intervene in the civil case, claiming to be the rightful owner of the shares.

While the ownership issue remained unresolved, the Sandiganbayan allowed the Romualdez family to vote the shares. It decreed however that the shares, dividends and earnings be deposited in escrow for whoever would eventually be adjudged the rightful owner.

Bombay blasts 'evil personified'–GMA

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-AR-ROYO yesterday condemned the bomb attacks in India's financial center of Bombay as "evil personified."

"This atrocity is beyond words. It is evil personified and we join the world in denouncing its perpetrators," Ms Arroyo said in a statement.

"The Filipino people join the global community in strongly condemning the series of bombings that left hundreds of commuters dead or wounded in Bombay" she said.

Ms Arroyo also offered her condolences to the families of the victims as well as to the Indian government for the "abrupt, violent and needless loss of lives."

The Department of Foreign Affairs said no Filipinos had been reported killed or wounded in the bombings. AFP

'Take care of the President'

By Christine O. Avendaño

DEFENDING ARMED FORCES chief of staff Gen. Generoso Senga yesterday dedicated newly appointed Presidential Security Group chief Col. Ruben Ponsican to "double up and work" in securing President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Remember what I said on you. Take care of the President," Senga told Ponsican in a speech during the turnover rites of the PSG command from Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit to Ponsican at the PSG headquarters at Malacañang Park.

Senga also thanked Bangit for being able to lead the PSG during his watch, including coordinating with "different enforcements all the attempts to overthrow our duly-constituted government, especially in arresting Mekeni[ang in seven] days in succession."

"I am proud to mention that aside from being the primary protector of our Commander in chief, the PSG has commendably served as the representative of the AFP throughout the country," he also said.

Senga's defense ...

From page A1

new chief of the Presidential Security Group, said that he was not aware of any mutiny and does not the control of anyone during those Ground[wire hoax.

Senga said reporters, in response to allegations by military junior officers that the AFP chief of staff had initially joined them in their plan to withdraw support from President Arroyo.

'Very professional'

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, who attended the weekly command briefing of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, described Ms Senga's integrity saying the latter was an officer that is "very professional, very competent, exercises strong political will, has a very firm backbone, straightforward, and he is an effective and efficient leader."

"I have knowledge he had responded with the right measures and in a quick enough efficient time to suggest appropriate to the situation in a professional soldier and in accordance and in defense of the Constitution," Cruz said.

No wavering

Asked how soon Senga reported the plot against Ms Arroyo to authorities, Cruz said: "Senga[-called major service commanders right away and requested our highest authorities what was happening right away."

Cruz said he has not seen the report yet on the military's investigation of the Feb. 23-24 incident.

New post for Senga

Cruz said that he would personally lobby that Senga get a cabinet government post after his retirement.

"I think it would be a waste if we do not make use of General Senga's long experience in the service and his competence which I believe the government can use in a positive and helpful way," Cruz said in a briefing.

"I'm still thinking where his talents and experience will be put to good use. I think he's going on a little vacation maybe stopping abroad [on July 21] and that will give us more time to decide where he should be appointed," Cruz said.

Senga also told reporters: "At that time, I was in control, I was making my own decisions, and all the things that the Armed Forces did on that night and the following morning, all the actions that were undertaken by the command, the Philippine Army, Navy, Air Force, they were all doing it under my instructions."

Aside from Cruz, Palace officials led by Ermita rallied behind Senga, saying that Malacañang had never doubted the loyalty of the AFP chief of staff to President Arroyo during this time.

Ermita said he saw Senga yesterday morning and that the latter had merely "laughed off" the accusations that he had initially sided with the junior military officers.

"It's not true," Ermita said. "Because what has been reported by other officers in whatever sector that story said General Senga, I would believe the chief of staff."

"Nothing can give any doubt that General Senga, the chief of staff, had been loyal to the President, to the government and he did his job as chief of staff during that moment," he said.

During the weekly cross briefing, Ermita also pointed out that what Senga did during that time was the complete opposite of the allegations being hurled against him.

"He did his part as chief of staff, and the things that happen and the result of his actions speak for themselves, as there's no reason for us to doubt the sound and action of General Senga," the executive secretary said.

The military fact-finding team reported that it took Senga two hours before calling a conference with the service commanders.

'Magdalo plotted special operation vs 20 Arroyo allies'

By Inquirer staff

The four generals were cleared in March by a fact-finding board headed by Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga, the Navy chief. Despite widespread distrust, the military has refused to release the board's findings.

It was unclear if "Oplan Tri-dent" alluded to the Magsaysa reorganization. The current restructuring in the Armed Forces has been triggered by the exit of legitimacy hanging over Mr. Arroyo although she has vehemently denied any wrongdoing.

The documents seized from the alleged leaders of "Oakwood" mutiny in 2003 listed the names of 20 public officials and individuals known to be Arroyo allies.

Special targets

The 20 Arroyo allies are supposed to be "targets of special operations" to "undermine" them along with the main plan of **taking hostage lawmakers** at the House of Representatives building, according to the papers it did not say how the rebels wanted to embarrass these personalities.

The "Oplan Trident" list is topped by former AFP Chief of Staff and now Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, followed by Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, Bases Conversion Chief Narciso Abaya, and then Reyes.

Also named were Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, presidential aide Ricardo Saludo, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation Ephraim Genuino, Presidential Legislative Liaison Office Secretary Gerardo Clemente, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, Enrique del Rio Bop, Prospero Pichay, Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles, Sultan Kudarat Governor Suharto Mangudadatu, Armed Forces Northern Luzon Command chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, 7th Infantry Division chief Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Surigao Rep. Jose Solis.

Assault on Malacañang

Aside from taking over the **Batasan complex, the rebels also** were to assault Malacañang and military and police camps to confuse and delay government counterattack forces.

Officials would not say when or how such an ambitious plan would be carried out, but hinted the hostage-taking might have been planned for July 24, when the President delivers her State of the Nation Address before a joint session of Congress at the Batasan Complex.

"Oplan Trident revealed a plan for down military action and people's support against the government," Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said in a joint military-police press conference in Camp Aguinaldo.

"(That) coal mine of this scales taking its first bring down the government and pave the way for the establishment of a transitional revolutionary government," Bacarro added.

The officials claimed the rebel officers tried to recruit the same officers who took over the manila Oakwood apartment hotel in Makati City during the July 27, 2003, coup attempt and who were released in May last year.

Downplay

Col. Tristan Kison said the recruitment effort failed.

Military leaders have said they had accounted for all rebel soldiers after Sept. 2003 but the arrest of Lt. "Navy Jake" Jaime on Friday.

Even as the military and police hatred "Oplan Trident," they also immediately downplayed it.

"Though Trident appears to be feasible, the probability of its implementation is slim considering that no significant moves are warned to be committed," Bacarro said.

"They don't have the necessary firearms to use and most of the key personalities involved in the planning are already neutralized."

"Actually, they have, as part of their wish list, something like 120 personnel joining them. But practically they do not have that force," Bacarro said.

"It's imaginary, but on the ground they don't have that number. They specified units in their plan but they don't have the forces," he said in.

Civilian role

During the planned hostage-taking, active and retired military officers, religious leaders and civic society groups were to converge at the nearby St. Peter's Parish Church to join troops who would withdraw support from Mr. Arroyo and install a "transition government."

"(Oplan Trident) was planned by the same group behind Oplan Hackle," said Bacarro, referring to the Magdalo group's supposed assassination plot against the President and Cabinet members on February, Bacarro said.

Military officials asked if certain hangers chief Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, who had a failure to withdraw military support from Mr. Arroyo on Feb. 24, was involved in Oplan Trident.

"There is nothing in the documents which will specifically link him to the crafting of Oplan Trident," said Maj. Gen. Jose Ibrado.

Bacarro said investigators learned about "Oplan Trident" from documents recovered during the July 7 raid and follows up operation last Monday.

Arrested officers

Arrested on Friday last week were alleged Oakwood mutineers Army Capt. Nathaniel Sadornas; Lt. Lt. Patricio Buendia, Jr. and Sonny Sarmiento, who escaped from Fort Bonifacio on Jan. 17; 2nd Lt. Augusto Goco and retired Bathromadio, who never showed without official leave in February and Navy Lt. (j.g.) Ernesto Sedera.

Rumaling removed to the safe house with the "criminal records" gathered and Detention Group agents on Monday to run over additional documents and other items.

Officials would not confirm whether Rumaling had already defected to the government.

Chief Superintendent Eduardo Ermita said Deputy Justice Undersecretary Alfredo Orden said Rumaling's testimony is to be limited to identifying and turning over documents and other items.

Also arrested with the group were civilian lawyer Jose Antonio Custodio Sebastian and Michael Sangcon.

Magdalo defense lawyer Rod Pulido claimed the explosives and blueprints of the Batasan Complex found in the house were planted by authorities.

Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr. said prior interrogation where apparently found after the July 7 raid also revealed that there be final a series of bombings in Metro Manila and other areas in Central Luzon were linked with the Magdalo group.

A group called Taliak had claimed responsibility for the bombings, which had caused minor damage and no injuries.

Esperon next AFP chief of staff; Lapus new education secretary

By Inquirer staff

Senior reporter, "Ermita said.

But he was particularly sensitive to criticisms that since July 8, the President had been choosing mostly politicians instead of private sector professionals such as former Finance Secretary and Ayala 20 banker Ernan Pantoja, former head of SGV & Co., to fill up the Cabinet posts vacated by the Ryan118.

"Can you imagine a guy like him from the private sector doing what he did?" Ermita said, referring to Pantoja. "Isn't that part of destabilization? Do you consider that as part of the countries-in-governance?"

Tested, qualified

But Ermita was quick to point out that aside from loyalty to the president, the new appointees do have "something between the ears."

"We don't have to bump them up as political or professionals. What is important is do they have the competence to do the job? Do they have the track record? I think all of the President's choices are all tested and qualified," said Ermita.

Esperon, who attended the turnover of command of the new Presidential Security Group chief Col. Nestor Pentecost, brushed aside comments that he got the top AFP post as a "reward or payback."

"They must look at my record and where I have come from and what my record tells about my career," Esperon told reporters.

He also said he was ready to face the Commission on Appointments, which had deferred confirmation of his promotion to three-star general after senators requested more time to question him on his "chosen" when Congress resumes its session.

"I have always faced squarely the controversies that were hurled up against me. I will face whoever will question that I was party to any election fraud," he said.

Leading the charge

"I was just doing my job in the field and guidance as chief of operations of the AFP during the elections and I was proud of the output of the AFP at that time."

Esperon said he was honored to be given that mission of leading the Armed Forces in the defense of the commission constitution."

Ms Arroyo has ordered the military and police to crush the communist insurgency in two years.

"Tobull be in the frontline and I will lead the charge," Esperon also said.

DepEd union critical

Lapus vowed to improve the quality of Philippine education. He said his experience as a professional manager and in crafting the yearly budget would be put to good use to this area job.

"The awesome challenge of meeting the country's past world-class quality of education is a mission of a lifetime," Lapus said in a statement. "The very future rests in the quality of our human resources."

But Domingo Alidon, president of the DepEd National Employees Union, criticized Lapus' appointment. He said the department should not be used for political purposes.

"The DepEd deserves a secretary who specializes in education. This does not augur well for the educational reforms initiated by DepEd Secretary Edilberto de Jesus and could send the sweeping salary hike to DepEd ranted public," said Alidon.

In Hidalgo, DepEd officer in charge, will remain as undersecretary. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac, Alexis Pape and TJ Burgonio

Vidal, 2 bishops rejected thousands in Pagcor donations

By Inquirer staff

The envelopes were said to contain from P200,000 to P500,000 in cash, said one bishop who had rejected the dole. He said it "insulted" him and was meant to "bribe" him and his colleagues in its "softening" their position on such issues as the fresh impeachment campaign against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But the President's allies in the Senate said the reported attempt at bribery was "the devil's handiwork."

Bacnotan Bishop Salvador Esperanza said he believed that the "unseen drive" was intended to pit Malacañang against the Church.

Moral discretion

Asked to comment on the offer of assistance to Vidal, Lagdameo and Antonio, CBCP spokesperson Msgr. Pedro Quitorio yesterday said they should be commended for "exercising their moral discretion."

Quitorio said the decision of the three prelates proved their "fidelity" to the CBCP's pastoral statement of Jan. 23, 2003, in which all the bishops pledged to shun donations of money from gambling, whether legal or illegal.

"They have come to realize that there may be some political underpinnings involved in certain donations, especially those as big as the one allegedly offered to them," he said.

To avert suspicion that Malacañang is trying to win favors from the bishops, Pagcor should send donations directly to the poor, Quitorio said.

"(Pagcor officials) really don't have to counter the money through the bishops because the bishops would send it to the poor, anyway," he said.

The checks supposedly intended for Vidal, Lagdameo and Antonio in 2005 were offered in the same month that the Bacnotan bishop issued a report on similar cash gifts for a number of bishops and other members of the clergy in 2003.

Pagcor documents showed that it had offered "Christmas gifts" ranging from P500,000 to P4 million to certain bishops including Vidal, the archbishop of Cebu, Antonio of San Fernando, Pampanga, and Davao archbishop Fernando Capalla, then CBCP president.

Collective policy

Also among the supposed recipients were two other bishops, 45 priests, and 13 religious groups.

"The CBCP has made it a collective policy to refrain from accepting or receiving funds from illegal and legal gambling so as not to promote a culture of gambling, and encourage church personnel and church institutions to refrain from doing the same, even when the objective may be that of helping the poor," the organization said in its January 2005 pastoral statement.

For all that, Pagcor could not seem to contain its generosity.

The Pagcor papers showed that P800,000 was to be donated each to Vidal and Antonio, and P500,000 to Lagdameo. The check numbers were 0010205(7 (Vidal), 0010206(8 (Antonio), and 0010209(1 (Lagdameo).

All three checks, issued through Land Bank of the Philippines Manila, were dated Sept. 1, 2005, and bore the name and supposed signature of Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino.

A separate memo, supposedly a copy of a Pagcor request for payment, was attached to each of the three check voucher copies. Listed under "particulars" was the item "Financial assistance."

Tickfish issue

A check is issued only after the Pagcor board has approved a recommendation, the insider said.

Receiving cash donations, especially from Pagcor, has been a ticklish issue among members of the CBCP even with its pastoral letter on gambling.

Disagreements have marked the teaching that gambling is a evil is sinful, a position explained last year by Capalla.

Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, Dagupan Diocesan Social Ministry of gambling, money coming even from legal gambling cannot "sanitize the virtues of benevolence and charity" even if it goes straight to the poor.

"The end does not justify the means," he said in a documentary recently said Cruz, a former president of the CBCP. "Money from vice cannot be cleansed into a virtuous commodity by simply throwing (it) to the needy. Its hungry the sick."

Citing the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the congregation of teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, the IBCP in 2003 said "games of chance or wagers" were "not in themselves contrary to justice."

"They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others. The passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement," it said.

In bed with Lucifer

According to Lambayan del Sur Rep. Isidro Real Jr., the report that the CBCP members were offered cash during their recent plenary assembly "raise the individuals who begrudge the CBCP for its anti-impeachment stance."

Real, vice-chair of the committee on good governance, said these supposedly smearing the bishops "should step and get out of bed with Lucifer."

"In the first place, the President is truly religious person, who will never be the ones of the devil. Doing so would mean breaking her own faith and religious principles. We appeal to them to stop the smear campaign against the Church and for God-Sanding," he said.

Barreiro, vice chair of the House committee on justice, said: "The President's allies condemn the malicious attack on the CBCP members as the devil's handiwork, which is meant to discredit not only the Palace but also the Church."

He said the bishops had prayed for discernment on the impeachment issue before coming out with their pastoral statement on Monday.

But "unable to accept the CBCP's decision, those inclined to distrust now seem to chastise our good bishops for not seeing their predispositions' bias," he said.

Speak up

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles called on the bishops to speak up and defend themselves, and challenged "unseen smugged" to name names.

"You cannot just send money through a messenger. The Palace is not stupid. (sic) Isolate to do that. If the allegations are true, it doesn't mean that the money had came from Malacañang. It could have come from anybody who wants to make it appear that the administration is indeed bribing the bishops, when in fact it is not," he said.

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Vanuatu happiest place on Earth; RP ranks 17

By Inquirer staff

the Philippines ranked 17th in the Happy Planet Index compiled by the British think tank New Economics Foundation (NEF).

The index combines life satisfaction, life expectancy and environmental footprint—the amount of land required to sustain this population and absorb its energy consumption.

Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican and Panama complete the top five in the Happy Planet Index.

Zimbabwe bottom

Disliked but emerged at the bottom of the heap, below second-worst performer Swaziland, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ukraine. Seven African countries were at the bottom 10 of the index.

"The Happy Planet Index rejects the view of the economy back to its absolute basics. What we put in (resources), and what comes out (human lives of different lengths and happiness)," the NEF said.

Unenrolling G8

The NEF, an independent group that did the index jointly with UK-based green campaign group Friends of the Earth, said the report showed that high levels of resource consumption did not reliably produce high levels of well-being.

The Group of Eight (G8), a forum of the heads of leading industrialized nations, will be meeting in Petersburg, Russia this weekend, but they have not much to smile about. None of them made it to the top 50 of the index.

Italy came our best in 66th place, ahead of Germany (81), Japan (95), Britain (108), Canada (111), France (119), the United States (150) and Russia (172).

Switzerland came about among all European nations.

"The order of nations that emerges may seem unintuitive to some. But this is because policy makers have been led astray by abstract mathematical models of the economy that 'best' little relevance to the real world," said NEF policy director Andrew Simms.

Simms said the index "addresses the imbalance in the ecological footprints in giving their citizens a good life while respecting the environmental resource limits on which all can live depend."

Patterns

Mr. Marks, head of the NEF unit by well-being, added: "It is clear that no single nation lived in the Happy Planet Index has got everything right. But the index does reveal patterns that show how we might better achieve long and happy lives for all, while living within our environmental means."

"The challenge is: Can we learn the lessons and apply them?" Marks said.

Among Asian nations, Vietnam was ranked highest at No. 32, followed by Sri Lanka (33) and the Philippines (17). Indonesia was at No. 23, China (31), Thailand (32), Malaysia (44), Hong Kong (86), Japan (95) and Singapore (121).

Vanuatu, a group of 83 islands in the Pacific Ocean, was the region with the highest average score, combining good life expectancy of 70 years with an ecological footprint below its globally fair share.

Island nations

Island nations performed particularly well in the rankings.

But Vanuatu, with a population of around 200,000, topped them all. Vanuatu, part of a vast spread-ing 80,000 archipelago, has been described as "the happy isles of Oceania" by author Paul Theroux.

"Don't tell too many people, please," said Marko Lesueur of Vanuatu Online, the republic's online newspaper.

"Ni-Vanuatu are generally happy here because they are very satisfied with very little," Lesueur said.

"This is not a consumer-driven society. Life here is about community and family and goodwill to other people. It's a place where you don't worry too much. The only things are low are cyclones or earthquakes." Reports from AFP and Reuters

GMA going to Libya to thank Gadhafi

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WILL thank Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi in person for his efforts to resolve a decades-long Muslim separatist insurgency, officials said yesterday.

Ms Arroyo, who leaves for Tripoli on Saturday, also will discuss the welfare of Filipino workers in Libya and oil supplies for the Philippines, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said.

"The President will thank the great leader Gadhafi for the 30 years of partnership for peace in the southern Philippines," Ermita said.

He said Arroyo, who will return to Manila on Tuesday, was looking to strengthen relations with Libya and also invite more Libyan investments in the Philippines.

Libya hosted talks in 1976 between Muslim and the main Muslim rebel group, Moro National Liberation Front, which eventually signed a peace accord in 1996. Libya also brokered talks in 2001 with another rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, that paved the way for ongoing formal negotiations.

Libya played a key role in retrieving the release of Western tourists seized by the Muslim extremist group Abu Sayyaf from a Malaysian resort and brought to the southern Philippines in 2000. Libya reportedly paid millions of dollars (euros) in ransom for the hostages, but this was not officially confirmed. AP

The Daily Gospel

Thursday, July 13, 2006
14th Week In Ordinary Time
Henry

1st Reading: Hos 11:1-4, 8-9
Gospel: Matthew 10:7-15

Jesus said to his disciples, "As you go, proclaim the message, 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse the lepers, and drive out demons. You received this as a gift, so give it as a gift. Do not carry any gold, silver or copper in your purses. Do not carry a traveler's bag, or an extra shirt, or sandals, or anything stick. Workers deserve their living.

"When you enter any town or a village, look for a worthy person and stay there until you leave.

As you enter the house, solicit peace. If the people in the house deserve it, your peace will be on them; if they do not deserve it, your blessing will come back to you.

And if you are not welcomed and your words are not listened to, leave that house or that town and shake the dust off your feet. I assure you, it will go easier for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than it will for the people of that town."

Commentary

God treats Israel as tenderly, like a child, fostering them, loving and leading them. Our God is tender, forgiving us, even when we sin. He is not a God who punishes us for our sins. Only we are not so. But Jesus is that love in flesh and blood, meeting everywhere and sending His disciples out to do his work: heal, bring hope, preach good news to the poor, do justice. And we are called to stand light, go without violence or protection, rely on the goodness of others, share the richness of the Word and accept what is shared with us, and what is picked, have, but leave the judgment of others to God. It is the way of the reason ever prophets preached.

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TIMELINE

March 6, 2004. Presidential consultant Sen. Panfilo Lacson accuses President Macapagal-Arroyo of "virtual vote-buying" by subscribing the release of P728 million to favored officials, supposedly to buy farm inputs like fertilizer and pesticides for their constituents, as part of the Strategic Countryside Development Intervention (SCIDI) project.

Lacson questions the timing of the fund release. He adds that some of the directors in the list of recipients do not even have farmlands.

May 2004. Former Solicitor General Frank Chavez files a plunder case against the President. He identifies Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante as one of those who signed the papers involving the release and disposition of the fertilizer fund.

Chavez says the friends of the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, and the Department of Agriculture pocketed about P1.62 million of the amount earmarked for the projects.

June 3, 2004. Bolante, who considers Mike Arroyo "a good friend," says the latter has nothing to do with the fund controversy.

He admits to signing papers requesting the fund, but claims that he had no hand in the selection of the recipients because this system is "demand-driven."

He says he welcomes a probe, as "this is the opportunity to answer these false accusations."

September 2005. Bolante resigns as agriculture undersecretary reportedly because of his election as deputy transportation director for Asia-Pacific.

He is also named to the Government Service and Insurance System's board of trustees.

Oct. 6, 2005. The Senate committee on agriculture chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. opens its inquiry into the fertilizer fund. Bolante is a no-show.

Oct. 26, 2005. Bolante leaves for Los Angeles hours before the second Senate hearing.

November 2005. Magsaysay seeks the issuance of the 10 February and Rotary International to locating Bolante, who is now also at the Nov. 17 and Nov. 24 hearings.

Dec. 5, 2005. Bolante reportedly arrives at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Dec. 11, 2005. Bolante leaves on a Cathay Pacific flight for Hong Kong en route to the United States, four days after the Bureau of Immigration placed him on its watch list.

Dec. 11, 2005. The Senate clerk delivers the summons and orders his arrest.

Jan. 03, 2006. In a position submitted through the Philippine consulate in Chicago, Bolante asks the Supreme Court to stop the Senate from implementing the arrest order, saying he is willing to attend the committee hearings.

But he omits the Jan. 31 and Feb. 2 hearings.

March 4, 2006. The Senate committee on agriculture and the blue ribbon committee release a report recommending the filing of criminal and administrative charges against Bolante and other agriculture officials.

The report also says the President should "do valid accountable" for the mismanagement of the fund.

June 26, 2006. The second impeachment complaint against the President is filed. Her alleged participation in the fertilizer fund scam is included in the charges.

Cyril L. Bonabores, *PDI Research*

US jails GMA point man; extradition sought

From page 8 |

He said that embezzlement of funds was an "extraditable offense," and that the government "should look at that aspect."

News of Bolante's arrest came four months after the Senate committee on agriculture wrapped up its inquiry into what it called the "unconstitutional, systematic" agricultural theft and recommended the filing of charges against Bolante and several current and former agriculture officials.

The committee also concluded that President Macapagal-Arroyo should be held accountable for the "mismanagement of the fund."

The fund, allotted for the purchase of farm inputs, was believed to have been diverted and distributed as largesse to administration allies to ensure Mrs Arroyo victory in the May 2004 presidential election.

Bolante is being held at the San Pedro Detention Center in California, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said a press briefing yesterday.

He was arrested by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) on July 7 and detained because of his cancelled 51-A1 visa, Asuque said, quoting the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles.

The hearing of Bolante's visa case is scheduled on July 12 (today in Manila), Asuque said.

He said the consulate's legal officer, Nestor Diaz, had spoken with the INS representative and was informed that Bolante was being represented by his own lawyer.

"We will know why his business visa was cancelled after the hearing," Asuque said.

'Private citizen'

Bolante was once considered one of the President's most trusted men, but now Malacañang would not dream of posting bail for him.

"We will not raise a finger to do such a thing that you are suggesting," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said when asked if Bolante's supporters would ask for Malacañang help in posting bail of $100,000 for his temporary release.

Ermita said the Palace had yet to verify reports that Bolante had indeed been arrested by US immigration officials.

"If it is true, what is the right to ask for that amount from the government?" Ermita said, adding:

"I don't see under what arrangement we can help him. He is a private citizen. If the government helps him, [people] will say, 'Malacañang helped Bolante.' So, Malacañang is not prepared for bailing Bolante."

At the same, Ermita said, the government would extend to Bolante the same assistance it would give ordinary Filipinos in a similar bind.

"It will just be DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] for the consulate," he said.

BOLANTE: Police will not post bail

MAGSAYSAY: Facsimile of Ombudsman

ERMITA: Bolante deserves his 'good friend'

LACSON: His request marred it all

According to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, the government's role in Bolante's case is only to make sure that his legal rights are respected.

His being a former colleague in the Cabinet does not count, Bunye said.

The normally cool Ermita was visibly annoyed when asked if Malacañang should worry about Bolante's possible appearance at the Senate inquiry on the fertilizer scam.

"I don't see why we should be bothered by a Senate probe. There is no reason for Malacañang to be bothered," he said.

From Seoul

Quoting Consul General William Lai, Asuque said the INS informed the consulate by phone of Bolante's arrest and detention on July 10.

Asuque said Bolante was arrested upon arriving in Los Angeles via Seoul, South Korea, from Seoul on Friday night (Saturday morning in Manila).

"He appeared to be traveling alone," Asuque told the business in a phone interview.

Asuque told reporters that the DFA had not cancelled Bolante's passport, allowing him to travel freely.

"This is a rare case, in a the division of a country's immigration officials if they would allow a person to enter their country or cancel one's visa," he said in Filipino.

Asuque also said there was no information if Bolante's arrest and detention were related to the fertilizer scam.

'His face'

Throughout the Senate's ex parte hearings spread over six months, Bolante was a no-show, often using his travels abroad as then dismissal of Senate investigations as excuse.

Last year, the ousted senator cited him for contempt and ordered his arrest.

Bolante's arrest in the United States is "his fate," Magsaysay told the business.

"I feel sorry for him, proud now for the country and the farmers. This is an issue of accounting and accountability," the senator said, adding:

"We'd like the US authorities to secure his person and his life, given that he has been revealing nothing at the Senate hearing."

Magsaysay also said that once the US Immigration authorities were done with Bolante, the Philippines' Bureau of Immigration could send agents to Los Angeles to serve the Senate arrest order on the man.

"They should bring him to the line, as to be excellent as and answer some questions on the scam," Magsaysay said.

He said he was not calling out existing an inquiry into other government fund releases for the purchase of seed varieties.

"But we'll rather that the Ombudsman do something about [Bolante]," he said.

The senator also said the government should extend assistance to Bolante as a citizen, and not as a public official.

"He should be assured of his safety and handled without physical risk, and that he gets his lawyers," Magsaysay said. "But beyond that, it's up to government officials to handle him. He might be too hot to handle."

Ombudsman Gutierrez

Dulce said Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, whose office is investigating the fertilizer fund scam, should invoke the SPAM Jurisdiction Treaty "to bring back Bolante."

"She is familiar with the treaty because as then state counsel of the Department of Justice, Merci Gutierrez assisted me in negotiating the treaty," Dulce, who served as justice secretary during the Aquino administration, said in reply to a question from the business.

Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas who testified at the Senate inquiry also said Bolante "must immediately be extradited to the Philippines to face the charges against him."

"He must be punished for his crimes against the peasants, particularly his involvement in the P728-million fertilizer scam," Ramos said.

Ramos, however, said Bolante could turn state witness "to save his own skin and send more guilty persons to jail." *With a report from* Jol C. Cabacungan Jr.

COMMON ERRORS IN HANDLING

BIR SUBPOENA

ATTEND workshop at Ruby Room, Diamond Hotel, Roxas Blvd., Manila, 7-1-5 pm / July 15, 2006.

OBJECTIVES: to understand BIR subpoena, to minimize damages to company's images and BIR-implicated persons, to know documents to bring in order to avoid tax problems, and to learn administrative procedures in the BIR Legal Div. and DOJ Prosecutor's Office.

IMMEDIATE BENEFITS: This training helps taxpayers REDUCE anger, anxiety, conflicts, confusion, distrust, errors, frustrations, hassles, health problems, pressure, stress, tension and worry brought by BIR Subpoena.

Lecturer/Instructor: **Dr. EMELINO T MINGTING**, CPA, TAX AGENT & FOUNDER OF TAX ACCOUNTANT SOCIETY & Author Ng Mayan INDEX FOUND +++PARK IT PAYMENT PERCEIVED before July 15, **50% disc.** Call 02-7402892 / 0920-8008607/ 02-410-7501 / 02-4140206 /0922-8620022 Look for BRC, LBN or SORN

REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 9-2006

Subject : Amending Further Certain Provisions of Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 6-2001, as Amended, Implementing the Provisions of Executive Order (EO) No. 195, as Amended by EO No. 422, Otherwise Known as the "No Audit Program (NAP)"

To : All Internal Revenue Officials, Employees and Others Concerned.

SECTION 1. SCOPE. This Regulations shall apply to all taxpayers under the Revenue Code of 1997, as amended by RA 9337, Value-Added Tax (VAT) System Law, Percentage Tax Law, Excise Tax Law, Documentary Stamp Tax Law, and other tax laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS. Section 2(a) of RR No. 6-2001 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC.2(a) DEFINITIONS.

(1) Taxpayer - refers to any person whether individual or corporation subject to any internal revenue tax.

SECTION 3. CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION. Section 3 of RR No. 6-2001 as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC.3(a) CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION UNDER THE PROGRAM.

(1) A taxpayer to qualify for the NAP, he must satisfy all of the following:

a. Taxpayer has applied for the Current Taxable Year (CTY) under the Income Tax system for the Base Year by or before April 15;

b. Taxpayer has applied for the Current Taxable Year (CTY) under the Value-Added Tax System for the Base Year by or before April 15;

c. Taxpayer's total sales, receipts or revenues for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year;

d. Taxpayer's total sales, receipts or revenues for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year;

e. Taxpayer's total sales, receipts or revenues for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year;

f. Taxpayer's total sales, receipts or revenues for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year;

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p. Taxpayer's total sales, receipts or revenues for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year;

q. Taxpayer's total sales, receipts or revenues for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year;

r. Taxpayer's total sales, receipts or revenues for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year;

s. Taxpayer's total sales, receipts or revenues for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year;

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v. Taxpayer's total sales, receipts or revenues for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year;

w. Taxpayer's total sales, receipts or revenues for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year;

x. Taxpayer's total sales, receipts or revenues for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year;

y. Taxpayer's total sales, receipts or revenues for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year;

z. Taxpayer's total sales, receipts or revenues for the Current Taxable Year must be at least equal to that of the Base Year;

SECTION 4. TAXPAYERS NOT QUALIFIED FOR THE PROGRAM.

SECTION 5. TAXPAYERS NOT QUALIFIED FOR THE PROGRAM.

SECTION 6. DEADLINE.

SECTION 7. DEADLINE.

SECTION 8. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM AUDIT/INVESTIGATION OR NOTICE OF CANCELLATION.

SECTION 9. ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM AUDIT/INVESTIGATION OR NOTICE OF CANCELLATION.

SECTION 7. APPEAL.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVITY.

RODOLFO C. TEVES
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

EDGARDO C. ABAD
Undersecretary of Finance

Bombay picks up pieces after railway bombings kill 190

To page A2

process itself to the world as a wounded and unsuspicious metropolis where bankers dine with movie stars and fashion models party until dawn.

At Monday's 7:24 rush hour people struggled to regain their footing on Wednesday, suspicion for the bitch fell on fractured militants who claim to have carried out seven synchronized attacks on trains, including bombings last year at three stations in New Delhi that killed 59 people.

Kashmiri militants

The Times of India reported that Indian intelligence officials believed two shadowy groups, Lashkar-e-Taiba, a militant group based in Pakistan's Kashmir region, and Students Islamic Movement of India, were responsible for the blasts. Both groups were blamed for a series of Bombay bombings in 2003.

But two of the main Islamic militant groups in the Indian-ruled region—Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed—condemned the bombings and separate statements on Wednesday. Both groups denied they had anything to do with the Bombay bombings or a series of grenade attacks in Srinagar that killed eight people earlier the same day.

"These cowardly acts were perpetrated by the enemies of humanity ... Indian security forces blame Lashkar in an attempt to defame Kashmir freedom struggle," a spokesperson for Lashkar said in a statement. Kashmir militants usually issue a similarly worded statement whenever they are accused of carrying out attacks against Indian civilians.

"We do not believe in killing innocent civilians," the Lashkar spokesperson added.

The Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militant group also condemned the blasts and said in a statement that "mujahedeen cannot be involved in such heinous crimes."

Global condemnation

Tuesday's attacks drew condemnation from around the world. (See story in *The World*, Page A20.)

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said "terrorists" were behind the bombings, which he called "shocking and cowardly."

With the investigation moving the handling Indian Sea port constant and clamp, police picked through the mangled train cars, placing evidence in blue plastic bags and cleaning away various accidents.

"We are just trying to establish what kind of explosives were used and where exactly the bombs were placed but it appears they were large in the luggage racks," said police inspector Sudhanwa Patil, who was helping sift through the wrecked train cars.

Patil, announced members with federal police had visited the victims suffered head and chest injuries, presumably from "slam" down their heads.

But even as authorities were still trying to determine the nature of the bombs, the CNN-IBN television news channel said police sources are saying that powerful RDX explosives were used and that timers were found in one of the stations.

Governments around the world tightened security to deter them. New Delhi to New York after the eight blasts, which struck seven trains within minutes of each other during the early morning rush hour Indian time, remained on high alert.

Commuter transit systems have been tempting targets for terrorists in recent years, with bombers killing 191 in Madrid in 2004 and 52 in London last year.

In 1993, bombers hit the Bombay Stock Exchange and other places in the city, killing more than 250 people.

Tuesday's bombings appeared timed to inflict maximum carnage. The first bombing hit a train at Bandra station at 6.20 p.m.

Other blasts followed down the line of the Western Railway at or near stations at Khar, Jogeshwari, Mahim, Mira Road, Matunga and Bhalli Bardeli, which was struck by two blasts at 6.35 p.m., according to the State News channel. Other reports, however, gave different timelines.

Dr Shekawing the Press Trust of India quoted police as saying the casualty toll had hit 190 dead and 820 wounded.

Residents overcame their fears and returned to the trains early Wednesday. However, there was a decrease of the usual crushes on the trains, which serve some 6 million people a day, making it one of the world's most crowded rail networks.

In many first-class cars—the target of Tuesday's bombings—there were fewer than half the usual 60 to 70 people.

"Our trust in Bombay has been shattered, we had always thought trains were safe, but what can we do ... in this city trains are the lifeline," said Rajesh Ojha, 21, who boarded the train at Dombivalli station, where the first blast occurred.

"They can't scare us this way," he said.

Worried residents searched through the night for missing friends and relatives. Dozens of people stood in hospitals, carrying pictures of the missing.

"We have gone to four hospitals, he would have called by now," added Shahnaz Mir Wasi who was looking for her 24 year-old son Nihar at the Bhabha hospital near Bandra.

She had also visited a morgue. "We just very scared what happened to him."

Others crowded around hospital notice boards pouring over lists of the dead and wounded posted by police. The Bombay police have on Wednesday listed the names of casualties on its website. AP

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Manila Water
Temporary water interruption in Mandaluyong City needed to upgrade facilities

Manila Water is currently upgrading its facilities and fine-tuning the network to improve the distribution of water in the East Zone. We regret that we will have to temporarily interrupt water supply in portions of Mandaluyong City starting 10:00 p.m., Thursday, July 13, 2006, up to 4:00 a.m., Friday, July 14, due to the interconnection of mainlines. The following areas will be affected: Brgys. Hagdang Bato Libis, Hagdang Bato Itaas, Bagong Silang, Harapan Ang Bukas, Poblacion and Pag-Asa.

Manila Water Company advises all residents of the said areas to store enough water prior to the scheduled interruptions to avoid inconveniences.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 23 No. 205
OPINION

Legitimacy still

EDITORIAL

THE COUNTRY'S CATHOLIC BISHOPS MAY BE pushing the people to mount another people power uprising, former Senate President Jovito Salonga warned. "The bishops are virtually telling the people there is no more hope," Salonga said following the refusal of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines to support the second attempt to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In their latest pastoral statement, the bishops said they were "not inclined" to support the impeachment process which was bound to be unproductive like the first one given the rules and the "mind-sets of all participating parties." But Salonga said that "for all its imperfections," impeachment was the only legal means for Ms Arroyo to answer allegations that she had stolen the 2004 elections. "If you close that avenue because of the official mind of the influential CBCP, there may be no other way open to the people than resort to people power," he said.

Cabanatuan Bishop Diosdado Aguas, who signed one of several new impeachment complaints against the President, echoed the same warning. Diliguez said the people's desire to know the truth remains, so "if this constitutional avenue should fail, they will look for other avenues."

This is not the kind of warning that Malacañang and its allies in the House of Representatives are likely to heed. In fact, they are gloating over the CBCP's hands-off stance, with Speaker Jose de Venecia calling it a big leap and proclaiming that the pastoral statement has "removed the moral basis for the new impeachment conspiracists." They know the opposition cannot gather the "critical mass" necessary for a people power uprising. It tried to do it several times last year and failed, and there is no reason to think it will succeed any time in the near future. For as much as Filipinos distrust administration officials, they have also grown cynical about the intentions of opposition leaders—just like the bishops—and they are not about to march in the streets to demand that the truth be told about the elections of 2004. And with a President who is hell-bent on blocking every effort—including that of the Senate—to ascertain the truth, the Filipino people may have to wait until 2010 to get the full story—but that is assuming they will elect a new leader who is less than friendly to Ms Arroyo.

They can find out the truth about 2004 earlier, if they want to—by next year in fact. They can do this by electing to Congress people who will support the President's impeachment. The opposition doesn't have to win the majority of seats in the House to impeach the President, all it needs are 80 votes and the impeachment complaint goes to the Senate.

With the new attempt to impeach Ms Arroyo facing certain defeat, the opposition should shift gears and focus their efforts on the 2007 elections. Opposition candidates can make the search for truth and justice the central issue of the campaign and hold the incumbents accountable for their vote in the impeachment complaint. This is better than the proposal of former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod to turn the 2007 polls into a referendum on the Arroyo administration, which would veer away from the issue of legitimacy and focus on the President's performance. After all, good works cannot legitimize a stolen victory, if indeed Ms Arroyo stole it as her critics have charged.

If the new impeachment effort is futile as the bishops seem to believe it is, it isn't exactly a useless exercise. It keeps the issue burning in the consciousness of the Filipino people. And if the people want to help unlock the secrets that the administration wants to keep sealed, they will have that opportunity next year.

Death certificate

FOREIGN COMMENT

ISRAELI INTENSIFIED ATTACKS ON GAZA AND ITS SEIZURE of a dozen Palestinian officials and lawmakers have drawn no censure from the international community. For several days now the Palestinians and their civil facilities have been the target of relentless Israeli onslaught, which inspired an unequivocal message to the Palestinian people and to the erstwhile world.

The Israelis have apparently taken advantage of the abduction of a 19-year-old soldier in order to write the death certificate for the Hamas-led government.

The world's silence is widely seen as a license to Israel to continue its massive campaign with impunity.

The Egyptian Gazette (Cairo, Egypt)

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Bullies with diplomas

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

POLITICAL BULLIES ARE USUALLY DRIVEN in their motives of the keyboard. But this column is about school bullies, real ones—and how their cruelty blights lives long after diplomas want to fade.

At the Ateneo face-off, Prof. Cecilio Pagaian tells Inquirer columnist Conrado Banawa, 33, Who?

Many Atenistas today know Benjamin Salvosa III. He authored the textbook: "Called To Journey On: Christian Jesus." He teaches a course, titled: "Living in a World of Lights and Shadows," about living in a world of good, marvelous evil. But Ramon?

Actually, Ramon belonged to an amazing alumni honors class, Pagaian recalled. When there'd be Reading of Honors ceremonies, the whole class often mounted the stage. Ramon was No. 1 in that astounding cluster.

That was expected. In grade school, he'd rank all names of the 50 and Philippine presidents, in order, tossing in their middle names. "In grade school, when the teachers saw us they would say, 'Look, there's Ramon Salvosa and his brother.'" Simple as that.

In Grade 7, two classmates students joined this exceptional clan. They too were bright. But they were also bullies who tormented classmates as nerds and weaklings. And they picked on the two brightest students, the overweight chubby Ramon and the slim pretty kid.

"Intelligence, unfortunately, does not mean kindness," Banjo notes. Those who were more intelligent and privileged can sometimes be more cruel than the average person.

One of the two ordained the bullying and graduated college at the top of his batch, Pagaian noted. "The other became our best man for Me." His simple credo: not cope with unprovoked cruelty and defeat them school to school. "The psychological wounds of his victims were healed." Only within his family did the level rank from the piercing and taunting.

A former classmate met the duo, and noted in their quiet PhilAm family home in Quezon City the deprived hours reading and writing in his father's office. In those years, "we got to know the real Ramon—a gentle soul that couldn't harm a fly and someone with his books and long reflections," Banjo said and he "would walk for hours around on his good days," Pagaian said. "But on the bad days, he would have the tantrums and jeering and ridiculing all over again. This went on for over 16 years of his life."

Ramon just didn't know how to fight back. And his classmates, even here, used school activities to dish out everything they could to stop the bullying, Banjo says. "But even they couldn't crush Ramon every minute of the day. He could not function like before. After a while, it became clear to us that he may never be able to return to school and be the way he was."

At his wake, Ateneo Batch Class 1989 class president—now Fusion Adviser of the Society of Jesus—told Ramon's mother, Carmen: "Mrs. Salvosa, I'm very sorry and would like to apologize that we were not able to assist and shield Ramon from the bullies that tormented him at the grade school. I was also a target of those same bullies. They used to lock me in the rest room."

"The darkness that had engulfed Ramon led him to regard his home here in PhilAm and the park here where he walked every day, as an enclave, a sanctuary where no one would hurt him any further," his father Andy said.

"Thus was the boy set free as exuberant, as spontaneous and as keen about learning," his father added in the family confession after the funeral Mass. He lost . . . the promise of a life that was supposed to be a joyful journey into an unlimited world of learning."

Periodically, in those 16 crippled years, darkness would sweep over Ramon. The voice of his tormentors screamed through his head. Is this screaming dark night, there'd be two lights for Ramon.

"My father, Jerry was always present to him and there for him," Banjo recalls. The other was the mother Carmen who lived, cared for him day and night. Every night, she'd check on Ramon. It'd, she'd give the rosary over him."

In the last two weeks of his life, darkness swept over Ramon. The old cruel jeers resolved unceasingly in his head. For 18 years, Ramon's mother constantly brought him to confession. Now, Carmen convinced him to go to the sacrament of reconciliation, this time to specifically forgive the tormentors who still haunted him. "I have forgiven them," he said of the nine names in his last confession.

"With hindsight, we wish we had told Ramon, that those were the times to act instinctively, just like an angry dog," the father said those gathered for the wake.

"In times of prayer, some have their fathers," the father would often say. "In times of woe, bodies have their friends. Ramon had two. He became I had just buried my son today, dead at the hands of violent men. There must be a way ... It is the son that Ramon would not comprehend or grasp: a war against unprovoked, deliberate cruelty and viciousness."

Ramon's inexplicable expression of concentrated grief, Pagaianjan told his class. "Our Father in heaven must have looked down with much pain, sorrow and love on this grieving father, God, the father, would understand him. For he too had a son who was killed on the cross."

Friends and Ateneo students today ask the Ateneo's Rene de Guzman: And? "Of course, we're sad and may seeing him arrested," they reply. "But at the same time, we are happy because he'll never hear those voices again: no more hurt, no more pain. It means Ramon will soon fall into the darkness again and forever be in the light."

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@people.net.ph

Sightings

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE CELEBRATIONS THAT ERUPTED, OR were whipped up, in the wake of Manny Pacquiao's victory over Oscar Larios last month suddenly made me think of carnage. Indeed, the whole phenomenon of Pacquiao becoming the quintessential Filipino hero, knocking off just about everybody from Ping and Gil (he still effacing Efren "Bata" Reyes for the moment), made me think of carnage. This is not as facetious as it sounds.

Carnage sightings have a sanguine spin to wonderful as well. Israelis argue blood-swelling pride and elicit bravery in their country, opposite to—if nonetheless not to be believed—in the mines, where people are hungry and desperate. The *manunuggul*, an underworld creature that features the lower half of its female body in white shroud inside which it sipped the blood of his prey, deems in particular for the smell of the unborn fetus, in the usual MO's or much older, foul flying object there. On dark, rainy and moonless nights, or sometimes even in light, they send moonless nights, it can be seen in a faint, menacing, ragged-ly across the skyline, or be heard flapping its wings as it sights on a roof.

The sightings usually take place in the countryside, but so go by reports on railroads and terminal TV, they have also been known on occasion to happen in the dark alleys of urban systems. They galvanize the community to action, the local leaders organizing night-vigils. I do not know if they hold torches aloft, like in the movies, or crash in unison. Texts/poems are common. I do know they never included flowers in hope of discovering the monstrous, ugly bat. The belief being that if the lowest half of its body is taken with salt, the upper half would no longer be able to reconnect to it and perish in the sunlight.

I don't know if any community has actually destroyed an *unnuggul*. The stories about the sightings disappear from the newspaper tool-air right in the TV viewers' view for more-and-more days. The sightings themselves from the eyes of their appreciated beholders. But not after giving the community the satisfaction of having done something about a most monstrous threat to their lives, notably to that of their newborns or about to be born.

Sociologists explain it thus: It has nothing to do with people having bodies/motives from hunger pangs. "I fear everything to do with people perceiving their fears into something tangible that they can do something about. Life's problems are far too complex and people are at a loss who/what to point to under cover of night to fight against. Easier to fight *unnuggul*. For all their horrific aspects, the *unnuggul* can be vanquished with garlic, cruciffix and (Christian) manliness. You defeat *unnuggul*—the sign of victory being simply that they are no longer sighted after the vigil and vigilance—you give a failure or monstrous victory over life's problems.

Pacquiao's hero, or fits, are not unlike that. Of course, there's the aspect as well of his having become the ideal Filipino forerunner for cause he embodies the hopes of the beleaguered poor about how to escape their lot. Or quite literally how to fight their way out of their plight. It's touching now. Every impoverished Guardian tax—and there are legions—dreams of becoming another Rosales, a poor kid who used to play football barefoot in an obscure street in his and who went on to become one of the greatest players of the "beautiful game." Pilipch meant being fabulously rich apart from being fabulously famous. Not everyone can become a Rosales, or a Pacquiao, but as the song goes, "you dream, can't I?"

More than that—which is the reason the current regime has capitalized on Pacquiao's fast ascent—Pacquiao has also become, at once himself, into the voice, vicarious, substitute way of dealing with the country's problems. (Only congressional ex-words to Pacquiao after his hard Larios to a guilty verdict explicit in that thought. She wished, she said, that Filipinos would emulate Pacquiao and conquer their enemies, or their nation's problems, with hope and/or. Of course, she did not compare herself to Larios where she subverted her country into debtor.

Pacquiao's enemies are not unlike *unnuggul*, however they take set, took life solidity to the thing rather than fit about Macapagal-Arroyo. For all their horrific aspects, particularly in the form of Efren Antonio Reyes, from Manuel Marquez and Erik Morales—Larios was just another foe, they can be vanquished with blood and guts, heart and fist, thanks to and machismo. Unlike grinding poverty and the ever-widening gap between the affordable, the enemy is right there waiting to be pummeled. Unlike powerlessness whose solution is elusive and unclear, the enemy is right there waiting to be tackled. Unlike life's problems, which are far too complex (people are so the interventions, where the temporary illusion becomes the permanent reality. The danger is when the escape substitutes for the thing. Among sightings have not been very plentiful these days but Pacquiao sightings, particularly on the front of ads, are so. That's fine, seeing as we do not forget that there are far more real sightings right there who have been sinking their fangs into our necks all this time, and the more vicious enemies who have been blindpointing us in a bloody pulp all this time. Pacquiao is a good, well-read up kind day among the leaders of history.

We hope that, we'll end up OD'ed by his.

Bishops are pragmatic people

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF the Philippines, in a "Pastoral Letter on Social Concerns," which was issued after its recent plenary assembly, said it was "not to be limited to the present moment to favor the impeachment process" as the means for establishing the truth about the allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated in the 2004 elections. The CBCP said that "the process of impeachment is long and tiring, [and] guided by other motives than the genuine concern's for the common good," it would once again serve "to set unproductive tensions, damaging every citizen and deepening [their] negative perception of political life." Right and clear?

The statement was doubtless quite frustrated now the CBCP found, too, it's time the bishops do not believe that the opposition members are guided by a "genuine concern for the common good." It's clear that the bishops perceive that the opposition's motives are "other than genuine," that they are driven by other their own selfish agenda, and that attempts to move to impeach the President will only bring about greater instability and hinder economic reforms and programs. Clearly, the bishops do not want to be used by any political interest.

* * *

The bishops must have been guided by their sense of pragmatism. They obviously do not believe the revised impeachment can prosper; so, despite their divine calling, they do not want to be part of a lost cause. In fact, even the Senate's 18 has abandoned the call for GMA's ouster through impeachment, and has gone back to staging their old website that GMA "make the supreme sacrifice and voluntarily relinquish her office." But then pragmatic she looks quite hopeless on that ground, for now it is approaching the holding of a major presidential election. The arrogance of its members is unbelievable.

* * *

Many people have raised how secret events are interesting in GMA's favor. The appearance of Magdalo soldiers in state hideout near the Batasan and the release of the tape of detained Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim have doubtless discouraged many from mounted efforts going to the side of the opposition. Lim's tape has reinforced the **perception** that the massive rally of September 2005—in defiance of the beleaguered State. Thus, it's predictable that the impeachment move will be killed in the Senate Committee on Justice.

But perhaps, the biggest reason for impeachment bound to collapse is that—despite the deep's number of complaints about the failures of the GMA—most Filipinos would rather see her finish her term in the hope she would completely turn around the economy than oppose her through impeachment. And her poor back to surging their old website that GMA "make the supreme sacrifice and voluntarily relinquish her office." But then pragmatic she looks quite hopeless on that ground, for now it is approaching the holding of a major presidential election. The arrogance of its members is unbelievable.

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Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

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Who has the right to complain

DOES ONE WELL-LIT LAMPPOST on a dark city block really make a difference?

I lived in the United States for 17 years, the last nine years in New York City. I returned home to Manila in August 2005, more interested than any Filipino family and friends could ever dare imagine or easily accept (albeit I remained fluent in the Filipino language). If there is one thing that America has ingrained in me, it's the idea that if you see something with a situation, you have no right to complain unless you are willing to do something to address it.

I noticed that a stretch of De La Rosa Street, between Legaspi Street and Makati Avenue, was pitch-black at night. Since I walk that stretch every night, this has caused me some discomfort to walk on a dimly lit street—to the natural human dismay to no less.

On May 15, I e-mailed Rick Tupangco of Ayala Land, requesting him to speak to the Ayala Museum management to keep its building lights on after 9 p.m. Knowing how slow everything happens in the Philippines, I braced myself for a long wait, thinking realistically that this street should be lit by December 2006.

Around June 16, I noticed a lamppost in the middle of the block, across Ayala Museum, illuminating the once dark stretch. I thank the group of people who made this happen. Congratulations!

If you want to change this country, you have to change the beliefs, attitudes, priorities, visions, methods and ideas that do not work. Filipinos have a tendency to accept things because "that's how they've always been," while perpetually complaining about their less than ideal state of affairs. Even the things we don't want to accept, we somehow manage to tolerate (a character trait known to Filipinos as "*tiisin*"). We could have so much more here for this to climb can only do so.

If you love your country, put your effort into caring about the small things that matter. If you cannot fix the small things, there is not a chance in the heavens you will ever be able to fix the big things. I didn't enjoy walking in the dark, neither did my fellow Filipinos. But I claimed my right, as a tax-paying citizen, to the social benefit of a well-lit street.

If you want the Philippines to catch up with the rest of our neighbors in Asia, join your strong fists with good-oriented action. During the right thing is not always taken. And it is money whose moral compass is not exactly in order, doing the right thing is also oftentimes unpopular. But I am a God-fearing Christian before I am a Filipino, so I have to stand by biblical ideals even if they run counter to the prevailing living culture.

Don't belittle your efforts. Over time, your vigilance adds up and sets a good example for people who will one day lead this country.

I am a natural cynic yet I have tremendous hope for the Philippines. This country is filled with people who are too beautiful for me to lose hope in them. There will be better days ahead for all Filipinos, not just some.

And you, a lone light shining in the darkness makes a difference. Ask anyone who had stopped walking in the dark in the middle of the night, going to the bathroom.

—ERA TUTAL
Makati City

LETTERS

GMA's war on poverty doubted

THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL COordination Board's claims out recently with a list of the top 10 poorest provinces. Seven of these provinces are located in the Mindanao region. Only in the Visayas and one in Luzon. The list should give the national government an idea as to where it should pour its resources to solve widespread poverty, hunger and landlessness in the country.

Why is it that Malacañang Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food" (approved in November 2004 by the food and agriculture Organization council) is their "Where poverty and hunger are predominantly rural, there should focus on sustainable agricultural and rural development through measures (that) improve access to land, water, appropriate and affordable technologies, productive and financial resources."

However, it is obvious that the Arroyo administration has been focusing its "anti-poverty efforts" on areas that are less poor, albeit many issues to political motivation. For example, in the food for school program being implemented nationwide, the biggest number of beneficiaries—some 20,000 in all—are residents of the National Capital Region. Can anyone then remember in that of Caraga, which has 6,748 beneficiaries, or in that of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao with its 9,329 beneficiaries. The Department of Education even maintains a higher poorer than the NCR, but Palace officials had the final say.

Or take a look at the targeted 36,000 jobs which presidential adviser on job creation Arthur Yap announced. (PDI, 6/14/06) the each P500 million will be released by road-clearing work to create jobs in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog. Again, these relatively well-off regions were chosen possibly because these are places where there are strong anti-GMA forces.

If the President is really serious in liberating the Filipino people from poverty, she should focus on regions like the ARMM, CARAGA or the Zamboanga Peninsula which have smaller electoral revenue allotments and income.

—RAFFY REYES PEPOLETA,
policy advocacy officer,
Buklakbong Kalusugan ng Sektor Kawayan Philippines,
91 Matalahib St., Barangay Central, Quezon City

Intriguing form of cover-up

IT WAS ECSTASY FOR ME TO watch the "I Witness" episode on the failures, as were supposed to women in the outskirts of our cities, doing rituals that freely express their sexuality. I wanted to know more about similar rituals, many of which deal with phallic symbols that represent either fertility or virility. I was so inspired to do the *kuwes* of our area. Thanks to Ina Feleo Obusan. Thanks also to Noam Juventud.

I was intrigued by how much I have yet to learn from our past as a people and how much I have to unlearn of the morals and taboos that have been taught to me by our social institutions. Who could have imagined racial tension from shaking in the corners and poking at each other those self-made phallic symbols? Women activists in the cities might as well imagine these as useful advocacy materials for the agenda on sexuality and reproductive health.

Certainly, only those who do not dare around the issue can be responsible in handling the issue. Who could have imagined such ritual as acceptable in that particular community (except for the man-killer lawyers) and likewise, underestimable to most husbands of the Lukayos? Double standards might as well imagine those husbands as potential users of the "I Witness" episode.

But certainly, the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board can't imagine any of these scenes being flashed on television screens. Hence, it wandered the documentary collections. On the other hand, it seems easy for the MTRCB to imagine and tolerate television shows that treat the bodies of women so differently from beauty, cigarettes, bottle caps, etc.

I can't help but be reminded of the Mayor Alfredo Lim-dispossess Authority's multi-storied paint ordered drawings conspicuously painted over red graffiti that declared wage hikes, a drop in political killings, the ouster of the government, etc. Graffiti that should instigate us of what the nation has become and what government is all about or to hide.

The MTRCB's suppression of "I Witness" because of the Lukayo episode is an attempt, unconscious or unwitting, to bury something close a part of our culture as a people. I sure hope such act would give us more reason to be "tossed."

—ATTY. LETTERS,
Bukalakbong
(Dulue Kalusugan Bisling),
lakbongbarako@yahoo.com

Officials no longer with UCPB

MAY WE CALL YOUR ATTENTION to the item on the legal action initiated by Joelle Delaco, in which two persons named in her suit were ordered to at UCPB removal. (PEI, 7/4/06)

The first is UCPB general manager Lorenzo Tan in February 2003 and Rafael Sison in September 2003.

Since they are no longer connected with the bank, the entry's description of the case is now entirely accurate and could be misleading.

May we, therefore, respectfully request that this be corrected and that, in the future, the two be referred to as former UCPB officials or executives.

—RICHERLY LEPUZ IV, JR.,
assistant vice president and head,
Corporate Communications,
United Coconut Planters Bank,
7907 Makati Avenue, Makati City

Was June Inquirer's Ruffa month?

IF JUNE WAS DECLARED "RUFFA (Gutierrez) Month," then I missed that bit of news. But if not, then some no, unless no, OK no?

From June 19 to 30, four feature articles about the actress were published on the Super and Entertainment sections. Gone, three are pretty much the same story, only how much her gowns cost, how her family's vacation abroad went, how much gold she'd get from her hubby if their marriage fails, the other's roles and the other's urban legend. Saturday, July 1, the day I should give my eyes an extensive amount of publicity from the country's leading newspaper, which is supposed to provide its readers "balanced views, fearless views"?

Let me say under it now that I'm not against fluffy being featured in whatever section of this paper. To a certain extent, I do appreciate and savor stories on well imagine those trademarks as potential users pregnancy in the republic.

But certainly, the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board can't imagine any of these scenes being flashed on television screens. Hence, it wandered the documentary collections. On the other hand, it seems easy for the MTRCB to imagine and tolerate television shows that treat the bodies of women so differently from beauty, cigarettes, bottle caps, etc.

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—ATTY. LETTERS,
Bukalakbong
(Dulue Kalusugan Bisling),
lakbongbarako@yahoo.com

Use part of education loan to upgrade textbook quality

THE WORLD BANK RECENTLY extended a $200-million loan to the Philippine government "to address the declining quality of basic education." The money, it said, would be used to train the education system's staff in financial accountability, improve teaching standards and raise the quality of key courses such as English, Science and Mathematics.

It is the people's hope that this loan will indeed be used according to the purpose for which it is intended. Being the lender, hence, the one setting the terms and conditions of the loan, the World Bank can compel the Department of Education to use part of the loan to improve the quality of the content of textbooks used in Philippine schools, both public and private.

In remember, you start with the head; to education, you must with the books. Most of our locally published textbooks contain many errors that, because of the laxity or indifference of public and private education officials, go unchecked and provide passed on to forget much how generations to generation of unsuspecting students. This is precisely why the quality of education in our country has been declining over the years. The proliferation of defective textbooks is one problem that is crying out for a swift and permanent solution.

Who knows what textbooks are being used in our schools at present? Are they really of good quality? The late editorial "List of Approved Textbooks" was released in the year 2000. (DECS Order No. 331 under then Education Secretary Andrew Gonzalez. There had been some released after that. Why is that?

The DepEd, for the sake of transparency, must make public its official "List of Approved Textbooks for Use in All Public Schools for the School Year 2006-2007." These textbooks must likewise be made available and accessible at all times to anyone who wishes to review them for quality of content. Mind why not? There are, after all, public school textbooks bought with public funds.)

The public has every right to be assured these two simple requests. To deliberately withhold any part of the truth from someone who has the right to know is to lie to him.

—ATTY. ROB CALIPSO (JD, academic supervisor, Marian School of Quezon City, 199 Kanlaon Road, Novaliches, Quezon City

Don't blame Church for taking up cudgels vs jueteng

THANKS TO THE INQUIRER FOR its report on the jueteng operations in Nueva Ecija. (PDI 6/27/06) It revealed the kind of government we have today. It is distressing to see that the Church has to attend to something that is the primary responsibility of the government.

As what Bishop Ramon Villena said, the government is incompetent in stopping illegal gambling in their place. But this is true not only in Nueva Ecija. This is also true anywhere in the country.

I don't believe in police operations that jueteng in the country has been minimized or totally stopped. When people want to complain about jueteng, they can't go to the police, some of whom act as "protectors" of the illegal operations. So the people have only the Church, the real protectors of the people, to turn to.

—JOEY SEBASTIAN,
bosjojo@edu@hotmail.com)

What people don't know about the proposed Cha-Cha

The proposed Cha-Cha is being presented as empowerment of the people. Yet, if we examine three documents, namely the Draft Petition of the "people's" Initiative (DP), House Resolution 1230 (HR), and the report of the Consultative Commission on Charter Change (CC), the proposed charter changes will do the opposite: give more political power to the few who already have too much of it.

1. **It will take away our right to vote directly for the President/Head of State. Only members of Parliament will choose the Prime Minister**

   "The Prime Minister shall be elected by a majority vote of all the Members of Parliament from among themselves." *(DP-Art. 7, Sec 1; HR-Art. 7-A, Sec. 3; CC-Art. 8, Sec. 2)*

   "The President shall be elected from among the Members of the Parliament by a majority vote of all its Members for a term of five years..." *(HR-Art. 7, Sec. 2; CC-Art. 9, Sec. 2)*

2. **It will create a powerful Interim Parliament composed of incumbent politicians that would decide whether 2007 elections would be held or not.**

   Interim Parliament will be composed of incumbent senators, congressmen, and cabinet secretaries: "There shall exist, upon the ratification of these amendments, an interim Parliament which shall continue until the Members of the regular Parliament shall have been elected and shall have qualified. It shall be composed of the incumbent Members of the Senate and House of Representatives and the incumbent Members of the Cabinet who are heads of executive departments." *(DP-Art. 18, Sec. 4(1); HR-Art 18, Sec. 1; CC-Art. 20, Sec. 8 & 9)*

   Interim Parliament will be left alone to decide when the next elections are to be held including those for local positions: "The interim Parliament shall provide for the election of the members of the Parliament, which shall be synchronized and held simultaneously with the election of all local government officials." *(DP-Art. 18, Sec. 5(2))*

3. **It will create a super-President with additional Prime Minister powers.** This is because the President will keep the powers specified by the 1987 Constitution, while enjoying the powers of Prime Minister- an arrangement vulnerable to abuse.

   Impeachment becomes more difficult, if not nearly impossible: "The incumbent President and Vice-President shall serve until the expiration of their term at noon on the thirtieth day of June 2010 and shall continue to exercise their powers under the 1987 Constitution unless impeached by a vote of two thirds of all the members of the interim parliament." *(DP-Art 18, Sec. 1(1))*

   Interim Prime Minister will only perform functions delegated by the President. He or she will be chosen by the President. "The incumbent President, who is the Chief Executive, shall nominate, from among the members of the interim Parliament, an interim Prime Minister, who shall be elected by a majority vote of the members thereof. The Interim Prime Minister shall oversee the various ministries and shall perform such powers and responsibilities as may be delegated to him by the incumbent President." *(DP-Art 18., Sec. 5(1); HR-Art. 18, Sec 6; CC-Art. 20, Sec. 12 & 13)*

4. **Open the door for those in power to stay on in definitely.**
   There is no prohibition in any of the proposals against incumbents, including the President, from running in any parliamentary elections to be held in 2010. Moreover, there is no limit in the number of terms: "Each Member of Parliament ... shall be elected by the qualified voters of his district for a term of five years without limitation as to the number thereof..." *(DP-Art. 6, Sec. 1(2); HR-Art. 6, Sec. 1(2); CC-Art. 7, Sec. 4(1))*

5. **Open the door to other amendments** (DP-Art. 18, Sec. 4(4)), some of which may not even be known to the people today, **such as amendments to weaken the Supreme Court as a check against martial law and, conversely, give more powers to the President to declare it.** Once the Interim Parliament assumes plenary powers, it will be hard to stop.

   CC deletes the following from Article VII, Sec. 18 of the 1987 Constitution: "The Supreme Court may review, in an appropriate proceeding filed by any citizen, the sufficiency of the factual basis of the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ or the extension thereof, and must promulgate its decision thereon within thirty days from its filing." *(CC-Art. 9, Sec. 8)*

   And restores to the President the power to declare martial law in "imminent danger..." of rebellion, which was used by President Marcos to declare martial law but which was removed in the 1987 Constitution. *(CC-Art. A, Sec. 12)*

The truth is there is nothing in the present Charter that hinders economic growth and social development. On the other hand, there are inherent dangers in making hasty changes in the Constitution under a flawed and legally questionable process.

Constitutional reforms, if necessary, are best done through a more transparent and representative Constitutional Convention after the 2007 elections, where any changes will not benefit those in power today.

We do not need the proposed Charter change. We need real change.

Join us. Download our complete position paper at [illegible]

One Voice

Speak up for real change.

Apolinario Mabini was born on July 23, 1864. Known as the "Sublime Paralytic", he wrote the Constitution for the Philippine Republic.

MARLON LEON BERNAL
Area Head, Law Enforcement Beat
Tel. No. 897-8400 local 2222
Fax No. 897-8400 local 2211
E-mail: leon_bernal@inquirer.com.ph

MARLON LEON BERNAL
Area Head, Law Enforcement Beat
Tel. No. 897-8400 local 2222
Fax No. 897-8400 local 2211
E-mail: leon_bernal@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pi_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

MARIA HARRIET
Tel. No. 897-8400 local 2222
Fax No. 897-8400 local 2211
E-mail: maria_harriet@inquirer.com.ph

ROMMEL ANTONIO
Tel. No. 897-8400 local 2222
Fax No. 897-8400 local 2211
E-mail: rommel_antonio@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

This is your feedback. Inquirer.net/specialfeatures/acrossthenation or 897-8400 local 2222. Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

All Biak-na-Bato quarrying stopped

By Christine Dayliyan

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND Natural Resources has suspended all quarrying and other mining-related operations in the Biak-na-Bato National Park in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday announced in a press conference that the agency is suspending the operations of Benchmet Mining and Development Corp., that holds a Mineral Protection Sharing Agreement (MPSA) in the premises of the Biak-na-Bato Mineral Reservation.

"The DENR has decided to suspend the mining-quarrying operations of Benchmet until such time that the environment, social, safety and health measures are put in place, operating agreements are registered and approved and all proper taxes, fees and royalties are fully paid," said Reyes.

He said that the agency is also cancelling all quarrying permits issued by the provincial and municipal governments covering areas in the national park, the municipal reservation, Protected Reservation and watershed area.

He said Benchmet had violated the several conditions of its MPSA specifically on partially paying excise taxes.

The company, he said, still has to pay P267,500 to the government from Nov. 17, 2005 to Jan. 23, 2006.

"Moreover, the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP)'s requirements have not been fully complied with," he added.

Benchmet had said it did not violate any conditions in its mining permits and has been paying taxes regularly.

Reyes said the DENR is currently investigating the alleged double-counting of marble blocks.

The said mineral reservation has a unique and internationally famous marble deposit referred as *onyx mons*.

Benchmet's MPSA, issued by the DENR in December 2002, covers 330.3 hectares within the eastern portion of the national park.

DENR chief Reyes gestures as a meeting to discuss another environmental concern, the mining operations at Biak-Na-Bato, Aliaga.

MILF, gov't militias sign truce pact

DATAMATO CITY—GOVERNment militias loyal to Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas signed a truce agreement on Tuesday, raising hopes for an end to clashes between the two groups that drove thousands of residents from their homes.

The governor, Brig. Gen. Santos Catalan, and MILF leader Von Al-Haq signed the pact that would be in effect for two weeks.

"What is important is we suspend the warring groups and normalcy has returned," said Santos, who heads the government panel in a team that monitors a ceasefire agreement with the MILF.

The truce agreement calls for military personnel in covered areas to disarm Ampatuan town that had been battlefields between the militias and guerrillas.

Teams composed of MILF leaders and police officials are to be deployed to monitor the truce.

It allows MILF members who live in the area to keep their firearms but not openly display them.

Humanitarian issues were earlier deliberated to keep apart the guerrillas and militiamen.

The clashes, that rose to least 20,000 people fleeing, were believed triggered by a car bomb attack on June 21 against the governor that left seven people dead.

Militiamen were running after rare MILF leaders believed behind the attack.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the agreement was a breakthrough.

"The civilians ... can now return home ...," said Kabalu.

But the evacuees have refused to return home.

"Where are we going to stay, our houses were burned[,]" said Bai Intan Bagid, a resident of Barangay Sapanggampong. "We lost our homes, our farm products and our work animals." Joseph Roy Martires and Edwin Fernandez, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

SCENE of the evacuees that want to call Sheriff Aguak town their home.

More cops to be sent to agrarian hot spots

By Blanche S. Rivera

MALACAÑANG HAS ORDERED more policemen sent to politically-aggravate areas as part of the government's efforts to quash the insurgency in the areas, trouble and facilitate land distribution.

The government would start gaining up police detachments in five Bachelder in Negros Occidental this week also to prevent the killings of farmer leaders. Presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor said.

The Department of Agrarian Reform, along with farmers' organizations, is also assessing the situation in Sorsogon Peninsula and Davao as are which areas need reinforcement from the Philippine National Police.

"I know that the source of the problem of rebellion is land. Most of them (insurgents) are farmers. We don't want to give the farmers a reason or opportunity to take up arms and fight the government," Defensor said in a press conference at the DAR yesterday.

Defensor and officials of the DAR, PNP and Department of Justice and National Defense met with leaders of the Task Force Hinatid in Mandaluyong Monday to craft a strategy to address the killings in Negros, home of the biggest sugar centers in the country.

Three TFM leaders in the province have been killed this year, with one being gunned down every month since April. At least six peasant leaders from TFM and Gualtx have been killed since 2001.

"If the government had been decisive in implementing the CARP, we would not have had these problems. The money has been paid with their lives. The government should do its part," TFM spokesperson Edita Sabanpan said.

Malacañang has ordered police detachments set up in hacienda-dominated areas in Hacienda Nene in Cagay City, Silay Mahaga and Cambulan in La Castellana City, and Danrosa in Silay City.

The DAR would also install 93 farmer beneficiaries in 19 hectares of Hacienda Malaynon, consistent with the aid of the provincial PNP.

Agrarian Reform Undersecretary Jeffrey Salas urged other farmers' groups to submit a list of problematic areas to the local DAR offices so the DAR could coordinate with the PNP in boosting government.

"We will do this not just to bargain but in all areas since it's now a policy of Malacañang," Salas said, referring to the installation of police detachments to agrarian hot spots.

Some farmers beneficiaries in Negros have had their certificates of land ownership award for 10 years but still could not occupy the land due to the landowners' political power.

₱6.2M spent to buy cell phones for solon

By Gerardo M. Zulaje Jr
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) spent ₱6.2 million in February 2005 to purchase 1,361 units of Nokia 1100 cellular phones for "the use of Rep. Judy Syjuco of Ilaya," documents obtained by Iloilo provincial administrator Manuel Mejencio showed.

However, the vehicle transaction was questioned after the supposed recipient of the cellular phone discovered that his name was in the Senator Enrile list for Property had been forged, and the phones never reached him.

Mejencio said he suspected "ghost delivery" for the cellular phones, as there was no trace of them at the office of Iloilo 4th district supposedly around the "July transaction" allegedly upon the instance of Syjuco, the representative of the second district of Iloilo.

"Where did the cellular phones go?" Mejencio asked after Mayor Isabelo Magsaysay of San Enrique, Iloilo denied that the signature on the property receipt form for the 1,361 cellphone units was his.

Magsaysay supposed signature was also the basis for the payment for the mobile phones, Mejencio said.

Syjuco, speaking through her lawyer, yesterday denied any irregular transactions in the purchase of the cellular phones.

Alex Espino, lawyer and liaison officer of Iloilo, described Mejencio's report as a "political stupid" after Mejencio recently announced his intention to run against Syjuco in the second district of Iloilo.

Espino challenged Mejencio to prove his allegations on the alleged forged Senator Enrile's letter.

He added they would also help Mejencio to investigate who forged his signature.

Mejencio said it was "highly possible" that there was no physical delivery of the cellular phones and the transaction became a "Carl's" drum-out for "cannot vouch."

He said he found it hard to believe that a little known barangay chieftain in Janiuay, Guimaras could easily contact a big contract on the purchase of foreign-exclusive dealer of luxury phone products.

"How could a small business in soft drinks distribution just beam aside the most well-known and exclusive dealers?" Mejencio asked.

Mejencio said the dealer of the mobile phones, Ubiss Island Beverage Distributor (MBDC), was believed to be an entrepreneur who had business dealings with the Syjuco couple when they still operated Air Cebu in the 1990s.

"Joe Cuba seems to be the connection head that linked them," said Mejencio.

He pointed to "tell-tale marks" in the documents submitted by MBDC that indicated its official receipts and charge invoice forms were printed only with this transaction in mind.

For instance, Mejencio said that the OR and charge invoices were printed only on Dec. 30, 2004, or less than a week before the award of the contract by DOTC on 04JAN.

Among the documents he submitted to the Commission on Audit (COA) was a letter dated Dec. 13, 2004 and signed by Syjuco.

In this letter, Syjuco asked the DOTC to charge until the usual bidding process and award to a direct purchase only with an exclusive dealer of mobile phone products.

Interestingly, the certification submitted by MBDC issued by Jose Feliciano, agent coordinator of Smart Philippines, was dated Jan. 4, 2005. The transaction to which the document was supposed to be already in the files took place on Dec. 30, 2004.

Mejencio was particularly "shocked" that whoever was behind the transaction "would be so brazen and bold to forge the signature of Magsaysay."

"It's not just a crime against a person that was committed here," he said. "It was also an act of grave disrespect for that person."

Roundup

Village chief shot dead

JUBBAL CITY—At least two unidentified gunmen shot dead Benito de Villa, 32, the village chief of Pino in Mainang town in Quezon province Sunday morning, police said. Investigators said the victim was walking in Sitio in the town by town of Dalahanan when the suspects aboard a motorcycle approached from behind and shot the village official several times. The victim was rushed to the nearest hospital but was declared dead on arrival from several fatal gunshot wounds. According to Supt. Renato Alba, Catanauan police chief, a "love triangle" could have been the motive in this shooting.

Delia Muller Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Employee fired

LUBANGO CITY—An employee of a P4.9-M Bank-funded project was fired Monday night. 'El Inocencio' he was abducted by armed men in Lanao del Norte, Brig. Gen. Ben Dolor Reta, Army's Southern Command deputy chief, said Monday in the Guzman, coordinator for Kalahi-CIDSS in Lanao del Norte, was released by his captors through the help of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front del Pino Jamal Action Group, a team composed of forces from the government and MILF that helps in rule after hostages in Mindanao. Unidentified armed men abducted De Guzman in Barangay Tambo, Iligan, Lanao del Norte Monday morning and brought him to the nearby village of Pantaon.

Jonfran Mañan, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Silver anniversary

SAN PABLO CITY—The St. Peter's College Seminary in this city will celebrate its silver anniversary on July 21 with the participation of both ordained alumni priests and undefrained laity alumni. Msgr. Rito Amante, vicar general and chair of the anniversary committee, said in his invitation letter that the activities will be highlighted by Caritas in Christo to be presided over by Most Rev. Leo D. Soo, Msgr. Elias Peñalo, retired and the longest reigning rector of the seminary, and Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo, former priest of the diocese.

Power hike in Batangas

LIPA CITY—Power rates went up from P0.40 per kilowatt-hour (kwh) to P0.50/kwh in June to Batangas residents after the Batangas Electric Cooperation II imposed additional charges last June to shoulder the power to increase in transmission delivery charge and distributor's operation costs. Cleto Mascardo, head of customer consumer services and public relations department of Batelec, said an additional P5 requested rates added last year will be imposed on the consumers.

Marie Aucenar Lainez, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Fire hits posh Boracay resort; no one hurt

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—FIRE STRUCK A posh resort on Boracay Island Tuesday night.

No casualty was reported in the fire that struck the administrative building of Club Boracay, said Insp. Rita Cabido, bureau of fire protection chief in Boracay.

Cabido said the staff of the resort reported the fire at about 7:15 p.m. It started at the two-story administrative building of the resort in Sitio Proma Barrio in Barangay Yapak at the northern end of the island's western beach.

Firefighters put the fire out at 8:40 p.m., said Cabido in a telephone interview with the bureau.

The fire damaged more than half of the administrative building, including the receiving area and the cashier's and accounting office. None of the rooms for guests and other hotel facilities were affected.

Fire investigators believed that the fire started from the resort's rotor lights billboard at the second floor of the burned building.

Cabido said witnesses reported that they saw the billboard burst into flames. He said strong winds and heavy rains might have caused an electrical short circuit that ignited the billboard.

The bureau on Wednesday is conducting further investigation on the cause of the fire and the extent of damage.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandavel
Bureau Chief Florante G. Solmerano

Silent Bulusan still casts fear on villages

By Bobbit Q. Labalan
Contributor, Sorsogon

MOUNT BULUSAN has been silent for the past 20 days or so, but residents of Barangay Inlagadlan in Casiguran, Sorsogon continue to fear that the volcano will explode any time.

Barangay chair Tito Fernandez said most of his constituents were still anxious, especially those living within the 4-km danger zone, which the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has recommended to be relocated.

Dominga Sajonal, a mother of seven, said she had never felt relaxed even though they had already returned to their home when Bulusan's eruptions stopped.

"Even in our sleep, we stay alert so that we can react immediately if the volcano erupts again. After what we have experienced, we are afraid," she said.

Her family avails a small vegetable farm, which has been destroyed by ash spewed by the volcano.

Government help

Soon, her husband starts as a farm hand in a small coconut land being managed by their relatives and is paid P500 per week at most. Dominga said she sometimes sought help from her parents to feed their children.

"We just hope that the government will help us, especially now that my husband is unemployed," she said.

Rose Ajos said her husband had stopped making a vegetable farm in the slope of Bulusan since they fell victims every now and then.

Their farm, which is just 5 km from the volcano, is now gone.

According to Mayor Sibelo Haman, the municipal council has drawn up a relocation plan for the 75 families living within the danger zone.

Hamar said the village's elementary school has to be relocated, too, adding that the Department of Education had already agreed to the plan.

The municipal government plans to buy a 4-hectare piece of property as a relocation site for the affected families and as a school site. It has already identified the area outside the danger zone but near enough for the affected families to go to their farms, he said.

The local government could shoulder the cost of the lot but they need help for the housing and school building which would entail a considerable amount of money, Hamar said.

Around P4 million is needed to construct the school building, while the housing project costs P9.3 million, computed at P40,000 per unit.

The plan is to be submitted to the Office of Civil Defense once documentation is completed.

PUPILS of the Inlagadlan Elementary School, which was closed because it is located within Mount Bulusan's permanent-danger zone, get classic service from a dump truck provided by the Casiguran municipal government, in going to the Rizcale Elementary School.

Casiguran drew P120,000 from its calamity fund during the recent eruptions.

Dominga's and Rose's stories are true to other residents of Barangay Inlagadlan, as well as those of Abug and Pating-Saga in the seaward Juban.

Along consolidator Delmacio Ongo said most of the residents in the village were now suffering the economic effects of the volcano's explosions. A majority of them rely on vegetable farming for livelihood, but their crops have been wiped out by the ash explosions.

"We appeal to our government officials to look into our situation and extend us help, especially now that our sweetpotato are no longer waiting at the evacuation centers," Ongo said.

The Juban municipal government had just set aside its own evacuation plan as the danger of the volcano had considerably waned, according to Mayor Jose Guido Pregalta.

He said possible relocation sites had already been identified, but the plan was temporarily shelved, awaiting an advisory from Phivolcs about the status of the volcano.

The municipal government will supply the farmers with different varieties of vegetable seeds so they can start planting again, she said.

Abug and Pating-Saga are outside the 4-km danger zone, but they were heavily affected during the ash explosions.

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EMERSON INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY

Slain environmentalist now part of Laguna lake

By Marlon Ramos
Calamba City

LONG BEFORE HE DIED IN THE HANDS OF unidentified gunmen on May 27, environmentalist Olivio and Hayan Miana coordinator Noel "Neil" Capulong had wanted his remains to be part of the fabled Laguna lake.

"It was like a death wish. He said he wanted to be part of the lake waters," related his widow Imperio.

"Like the unruffled waters of the Laguna lake, Neil was a calm person. He also used to tell me that like the water in the lake, he was at peace in the hands of the Lord. And I know that he is now," she said.

At dawn on July 3, about 200 relatives and friends joined Imperio as they scattered the ashes of her husband over the lake. It was the 40th day after Capulong was gunned down by alleged military agents on board a motorcycle in Barangay Parian in Calamba City.

For many of his comrades and loved ones, it was easy to discern why Capulong had such wish.

People's druggstore

"As an environmental activist, he spent a considerable time organizing small fishfolk to fight for their rights against encroachers of the communal fish cages in the lake. He also stood for the protection of the Laguna lake," said Arman Sibal-ilo, executive protocol of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Southern Tagalog (Bayan-ST).

The insurgent party went to Barangay Linga to inaugurate the Bathong Bayan (People's Pharmacy)'s project of the Bayan Muna party-list group in Calamba.

Sibal-ilo said Capulong had worked hard for almost a year to make sure that the project would be realized. "He knew the project would benefit thousands of poor families in the lakeshore communities of Linga, Pulingan and Sangalang-bato," he said.

The inauguration was originally set three days after his death.

"I feel both happy and sad," Imperio said during the program. "Despite our grief, our family is happy that Neil's wish for this project was not marred. I know this would help a lot of people."

The P600,000 used for the 20-sq m drug store came from the Unisystemic Development Fund of Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo.

Calamba Mayor Joaquin Chipeco donated P150,000 worth of medicines.

Volunteer pharmacists

The store is open 24 hours and will be manned by four volunteer pharmacists who will receive honorariums for their job, Sibal-ilo said.

He said the profits would be used to acquire more medicines and other items needed.

Among the programs, Capulong's older brother, retired army brig. Gen. Homer Capulong, a veteran in the military's anti-insurgency war, said that instead of justifying an all-out war, President Macapagal-Arroyo should try to uncover the rebels and her critics.

Another older brother, lawyer Emil Capulong, said their family would not stop until justice was served.

City police chief Supt. Roland Ramos admitted that police were having a hard time solving the case. The only evidence they had were the bullets from the crime scene and a lone witness who saw the assailants, he said.

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NEWS

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'Florita' spawns heavy rains; 4 killed

2 kids missing in Baguio; no classes today in Metro, 5 other regions

AT LEAST FOUR PERSONS WERE KILLED AND two children were missing on stormy winds and monsoon rain, enhanced by surging tropical storm "Florita," swept northern Luzon since Tuesday night.

Floods stranded hundreds of commuters in Metro Manila, prompting the suspension of classes in all levels yesterday morning. Malacañang also home government employees, including those in five other regions, after lands due to the bad weather.

Malacañang announced late last night that there will be no classes today in all levels in regions 1, 2, 3, 4A, the Cordillera and Metro Manila. However, there will be work in government offices.

In Quezon City, lightning struck a power line of the Light Rail Transit 2 between the Santolan and Katipunan stations at 7:30 a.m. yesterday. Train services were halted for several hours.

A huge retaining wall collapsed in Baguio City, sending part of a three-storybuilding onto the middle of a major thoroughfare leading to La Trinidad town in Benguet on Tuesday night. No one was reported hurt but at least five vehicles were buried in the biggest among the seven landslides reported in the city.

Pedro International radio station (dzRJ) recorded 202.6 millimeters as of 8 p.m. yesterday as rains forced to move toward Tarlac, packing winds of up to 120 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 150 kph. It was spotted at 330 km east-northeast of Basco, Batanes.

Public storm warning Signal No. 3 in the Batanes and Calayan island groups, Signal No. 2 in Cagayan, Apayao, Ilocos Norte, and Signal No. 1 in Isabela, Kalinga, Mt. Province, Ifugao, Abra, Ilocos Sur, Benguet and La Union.

It warned against flash floods and landslides, and advised against nonessential travel as heavy monsoon rains battered Luzon and Western Visayas and were expected to continue until Saturday morning.

LAWMUDDLED: A portion of the remaining wall along Magsaysay Avenue in the Baguio central business district collapses burying at least seven vehicles after several days of heavy rains.

In Olongapo City in Zambales, a woman and her three sons were killed when a tree toppled by a strong wind fell on their house at about 8:45 p.m. on Tuesday.

Police said Tonie Villegas, 40, and her sons Gilbert, 4, and twins Albert and Artz, 2, were sleeping in their house when the tree pinned them.

Villegas' partner, Jenny Solano, 47, and another child, Angelica Villegas, 8, were hurt and taken to the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital.

Reports from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the City Disaster Coordinating Council (CDCC) in Baguio said at least two children were missing and four others were hurt.

But Mayor Braulio Yaranon, in a television interview yesterday, said two people were killed in the city following continuous rains that triggered the slides.

Other Ballbearing Jr., 4, was reported missing after their house in San Carlos Heights was buried by a landslide at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday. His parents and two siblings were first aid taken to the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

Gerard Bontes, 7, fell into a creek in Irisan's Village and was swept by a strong current at 12:30 p.m., the report said.

Rescue-service stations, a CDCC volunteer, said their search for the children were continued.

Heavy rains also buried the city's main thoroughfare, Magsaysay Avenue, in mud and debris, forcing motorists to take detours.

Session Road, Governor Pack Road, Leonard Wood Road, Naguilian Road, Baguio-Bontoc Road, Kennon Road, Marcos Highway, Asin Road, Loakan Road, Aurora Hill, Quirino Hill, Gibraltar Road, Military Cut-off, Outlook Drive, Dontogan, Camp 7, Camp 8, Lower Quezon Avenue, General Luna Road, Upper Mabini, Guisad, Pacdal, Lucnab, Imelda Village, Country Club, Scout Barrio, Happy Hollow, Lower Magsaysay, Upper Magsaysay, Lower Session, Upper Session, Harrison Road, Burnham Park, Athletic Stadium, Victoria Village, Quezon Hill, Gibraltar, Holy Ghost Extension, Holy Ghost Proper, Trancoville, Scout Rallos, Scout Limbaga, Scout Tuazon, Scout Castro, Scout Albano, Scout Ybardolaza, Scout Chuatoco, Scout Delgado, Scout Tobias, Scout Fernandez, Scout Reyes, Scout Santiago, Scout Ortiz, Scout Gonzalez, Scout Torres, Scout Borromeo, Scout Magbanua, Scout Rizal, Scout Mendoza, Scout Marcos, Scout Lazcano, Scout Tamayo, Scout Madrigal, Scout Garcia, Scout Dizon, Scout Ocampo, Scout Alcantara, Scout Valdez, Scout Aguinaldo, Scout Quirino, Scout Roxas, Scout Laurel, Scout Lopez, Scout Del Rosario, Scout Del Pilar, Scout Del Mundo, Scout Del Monte, Scout Del Prado, Scout Del Valle, Scout Del Rio, Scout Del Norte, Scout Del Sur, Scout Del Este, Scout Del Oeste, Scout Del Centro, Scout Del Campo, Scout Del Bosque, Scout Del Rey, Scout Del Reino, Scout Del Imperio, Scout Del Gobierno, Scout Del Estado, Scout Del Pueblo, Scout Del Ciudadano, Scout Del Trabajador, Scout Del Obrero, Scout Del Campesino, Scout Del Pescador, Scout Del Marinero, Scout Del Soldado, Scout Del Policia, Scout Del Bombero, Scout Del Doctor, Scout Del Enfermero, Scout Del Maestro, Scout Del Profesor, Scout Del Estudiante, Scout Del Niño, Scout Del Joven, Scout Del Viejo, Scout Del Abuelo, Scout Del Padre, Scout Del Hijo, Scout Del Hermano, Scout Del Tio, Scout Del Primo, Scout Del Sobrino, Scout Del Nieto, Scout Del Bisnieto, Scout Del Tatarabuelo, Scout Del Tatarabisnieto, Scout Del Tatarabuelo, Scout Del Tatarabisnieto, Scout Del Tatarabuelo, Scout Del Tatarab

A plus METRO
Edited by Ester G. Dipasupil
Tell us your feedback: inquirer.net/cgi-bin/mailmessage.cgi?to=metro@inquirer.com.ph E-mail: p_metro@hotmail.com.ph

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Security tightened at MRT, LRT

Elite force deployed to protect commuters

By Tarra V. Quismundo

HOURS AFTER SEVEN BOMBS went off in a busy railway system in India, killing over 150 people, the National Capital Region Police Office yesterday stepped up security measures in Metro Manila's mass transport systems.

"We increased the number of policemen in our railway systems, including all stations, loading and unloading areas. We tightened security measures like the checking of bags and frisking of commuters," NCRPO chief, Director Hidal Quesol, told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

Quesol said some 200 members of the NCRPO Regional Special Action Unit, the police director's elite fighting force, would be fielded to the different stations of the Metro Rail Transit system and the Light Rail Transit Lines 1 and 2.

At the same time, Quesol called on the public to help authorities spot suspicious-looking persons or packages.

"We ask the cooperation of commuters, not only by subjecting themselves to inspection, but by also helping police and security personnel to monitor the surroundings. They should report any suspicious persons or any bags left unattended," he said.

In 1998, a series of bombings occurred in the metropolis, leaving more than 20 people dead and over a hundred others injured. One of the sites of the bombings was the Shaw-ortigas station of the LRT Line 1 which runs from Monumento to Baclaran.

ABOUT 200 policemen will be closely watching the Metro Rail Transit and Light Rail Transit Lines 1 and 2 to thwart possible bomb attacks. [illegible]

Pay up, drivers warned

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) yesterday announced that it would deploy an "elite group" of traffic enforcers along Edsa to go after hundreds of "dangerous" public utility buses (PUBs) and their drivers.

Some 20 members of Task Force Hunter, from the MMDA's Traffic Enforcement Group (TEG), will start hunting down beginning next month PUBs and drivers with unsettled traffic violations that date back to January.

"Our aim is above the law. We will throw the book at these dangerous PUB (public utility vehicle) drivers," MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Nicasio Acquilla Jongal de Dios said in a statement.

On the watch list of Task Force Hunter are 3[illegible] buses that continue to ply roads in the metropolis despite outstanding traffic violations. Also being sought are 528 bus drivers who remain on the road although their licenses had been suspended for driving infractions.

The crackdown is aimed at forcing bus companies to pay their traffic violations. The MMDA has been waging a drive against buses that operate illegally on Edsa.

SOLITARY WATCH
A teenager sits on the dead tail Baywalk strip on Roxas Boulevard, with crab traps meant to keep him company. Crimes were suspended in the metropolis yesterday due to heavy rains and strong winds. AP-EDITOR

Congress probe on PNU sought

By Tina G. Santos

A PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE has asked Congress to investigate the appointment of lawyer Luzgarda Barbo as president of the state-run Philippine Normal University (PNU).

Rep. Teodoro Casiño also urged Congress, through the House committee on higher and technical education, to look into the subsequent resignation of PNU administration officials against Barbo's appointment.

"There is a need for Congress to immediately address the PNU controversy and take take steps toward repealing or amending the erroneous Higher Education Modernization Act (Republic Act 8292) in order to undertake genuine reforms for the betterment of the Philippine education system," the solon said.

He added that the PNU controversy "seems to provide a clear example of how political patronage is wilanting even integrity and scholarship in the academe."

Said remedies are not forthcoming from the government to tackle this problem," Casiño said.

The militant congressman likewise cited the various issues raised by those opposed to the PNU Board of Regents' (BOR) decision to appoint Barbo, including perceived loopholes in RA 8292—the law governing state universities and colleges—that could nullify the composition of the governing boards which he claimed is being used by politicians to turn the academe into a bargaining field for patronage politics.

Another party-list representative, Loretta Rosales, is also reportedly planning to file a separate resolution calling for an inquiry to aid of legislation, into Barbo's appointment.

In her resolution, Rosales said there was an urgent need to review the criteria and process used by the BOR's search committee to the selection of the president to ensure that the decision would be fair, objective and in the best interest of the university.

REP. TEODY Casiño

REP. LORETTA Rosales

Makati City DPS investigator gunned down

By Tarra V. Quismundo

HOLDING P7.50 IN LOOSE change, public safety officer Bella Celino Enriquez was about to take a jeepney to work at a fire station past 7 a.m. yesterday amid heavy rains.

But the 43-year-old investigator for the Makati Department of Public Services (DPS) never made it to his office.

As he waited for a ride on A. F. Reyes Street in Barangay Tejeros, Makati City near the Sta. Ana cemetery, three unidentified men carefully walked up to him and shot him several times in the head.

Police said Enriquez was killed instantly.

The assailants then fled on foot, leaving behind three empty shells from a 45-cal pistol.

"He had just alighted from a tricycle he had taken from his house to catch a ride to his office. The gunmen really waited for him on that street," said Senior Insp. Gary Reyes, chief of the Makati Police Criminal Investigation Section, citing initial police findings.

Enriquez, a resident of 11 Ilaw ng Sion Street in Barangay Carmona, was on his way to the DPS headquarters on Ayala Avenue Extension, investigators said.

"We are still checking if he had enemies. Hopefully by tomorrow, we could already establish the motive," Reyes told the reporters.

"But based on our initial information, it could be a personal matter because his colleagues said he had no work-related problems," he added.

Police said they already have leads on the identity of the suspects but Reyes did not give details for the meantime.

"We are already developing an angle and we are already looking at some persons who could be involved in the killing," he told the reporters.

"But based on our initial information, it could be a personal matter because his colleagues said he had no work-related problems," he added.

Police said they already have leads on the identity of the suspects but Reyes did not give details for the meantime.

"We are already developing an angle and we are already looking at some persons who could be involved in the killing," he told the reporters.

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that vendors at the Marikina Public Market have a dress code?

THE MUNICIPAL Council passed in 1985 Ordinance No. 200 requiring a dress code on market vendors in the city, prohibiting them from wearing shorts or a sando (sleeveless undershirt). City officials said the ordinance was in line with their cleanliness drive. The program was deemed successful, that is why in 2000, the council amended the ordinance to include all businesses establishments in Marikina. JOJ Bonanni

METROBRIEFS

NBI, POEA team-up

THE NUMBER of illegal recruitment cases has more than doubled in the past six months as compared to the same period last year, according to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA). POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said field trips will be conducted by the NBI personnel tasked to investigate complaints from victims of illegal recruitment during the first half of 2006. To help address the problem, officials of the POEA and the NBI anticipate to sign a memorandum of agreement to facilitate the prosecution of complaints against illegal recruiters. "The POEA would now provide us with the technical assistance and refresher courses in expediting the investigation and eventual prosecution of the suspects," NBI Deputy Director for Special Investigation Services Victor Rafael said. Aquino C. Orig

Thieves rob colonel

THIEVES broke into the car of Lucban colonel in the city parking area beside the Podium Mall in Mandaluyong City on Tuesday morning, getting away with P3 worth of loot, including P 65,000 in cash. Senior Supt. Ricardo Layador, assigned at the Philippine National Police Directorate for Operation in Camp Crame, left his Isuzu Crosswind in the parking area about 10:30 a.m., police said. He went to a coffee shop at the mall but when he returned minutes later, the back door of the car was already open and his bag was missing. Apart from the cash, the bag also contained his passport which had been issued only that morning, a palm reader and clothes, including at least five Lacoste shirts. Police said Layador was scheduled to leave for Indonesia. Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

'Kawawa naman the President'

ON TARGET
RANNIE TAJO

THE BANNER STORY OF THE business yesterday saying that Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga wanted nearly two hours before he decided against the proposal to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo did not surprise this writer.

I heard from Palace sources that Senga was recommended for appointment as AFP chief by Cabinet officials who had called for the resignation of Mr Arroyo last year at the height of the "Hello Garci" scandal. The renegade officials became known as "Hyatt 10."

The Presidency was inclined to appoint Navy chief Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon as AFP chief of staff. I personally know this for a fact. But she dithered in her favored Cabinet officials when Senga chose what she termed "the safe choice" and named Senga Armed Forces chief of staff.

* * *

Tomorrow naman the President, as colgates would say about the new boy on the school by people who don't respect her or who would leave her during a crisis.

Another cabinet official who could not be called upon by the writer is her defense secretary. Avelino Cruz—then nowhere to be found during the standoff at the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio. A Palace source said the President was trying to reach Cruz through his cellular phone as she could order him to proceed to Fort Bonifacio during the crucial moments. But Cruz allegedly refused to answer the President's call and ignored her text messages. Cruz came out only after the Bonifacio crisis had been resolved.

* * *

My friend and compadre, Bishop "Philip" Gregorio, denies the allegation of former Ambassador Roy Seneres that he was one of those involved in the plot to oust GMA on Feb. 24.

Gray said that Seneres came to his residence in Greenhills where he and Hilga Zobel were having a business meeting. Cruz and Zobel are partners in a restaurant venture.

"He (Seneres) told us he had on his cell phone a recording of what Seneres claims is the alleged tape of the Garci tape. We agreed that we would listen to the recording as we could compare it with the other tapes," Cruz said.

The construction magnate's testimony does not help them about his plan to form a transition government. He was also rebelling financial support from us, Cruz added. "We told him (Seneres) we would never allow anybody to use us against the government," Cruz said.

Chito Oreta and Dolly Dominguez, justice and clerk in the Bureau of Customs, respectively are not your ordinary blue collar workers.

Oreta and Dominguez, assigned at the bureau's valuation and classification division, allegedly own big houses at the City Homes Village in Bifias, Laguna. Both of them reportedly own luxury vehicles.

Their unexplained wealth was featured in a Manila check conducted by "Imbestigador," a private eye show on GMA 7.

The Office of the Ombudsman investigated the luxurious lifestyles of the two customs employees, but nothing has come out of it.

The question is, how could a flood cleaner and a paper packer become so rich?

Tiger, the puppy, finds new home—and hopefully, a new nose

By Marlet D. Salazar
Contributor

TIGER, A FOUR-MONTH-OLD dog, lost part of his nose when he was run over by a tricycle in Santolan Upang, Valenzuela City last May.

A man who felt uncomfortable looking at the flap of skin hanging loosely from the puppy's face, then ran it off, completely separating Tiger's nose fr.

Shaiman Barrie, a neighbor, took pity on the dog and alerted the Animal Rescue Team of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).

Dr. Jeffrey Chua, PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center (PARC) shelter manager, said he was shocked when he saw Tiger. He knew the pup needed to be rescued right away but first, he had to convince its owner to give up the dog. "If an animal to be rescued has an owner, we cannot just snatch the dog away even if it is for the animal's welfare," Chua said.

It was not an easy task. Chua said he spent hours talking with Tiger's owner. "The owner didn't want to give him away," Chua said. After much convincing, Tiger's owner finally agreed to give up the dog and turn him over to PAWS.

Tiger, who had been without a nose with raw wounds, was immediately brought to the Animal Rescue to doctors Boulevard where he was given first aid and antibiotics.

Only recently, he was adopted by a woman who, upon seeing the dog, immediately expressed a desire to care for him. She also started looking for a doctor who could give him an artificial nose.

Dr. Nicolas Donato of Vet in Practice in Mandaluyong, who has been treating Tiger for free, was tapped for the job. The resident Donato saw Tiger, he knew it would be a tough case. "He has his nose but the wound had not healed," he said. "But because Tiger was obviously determined to survive, he decided to do what he could do something about his condition," Donato said.

The doctor felt up to the job since he had done different prosthetic procedures in the past, including creating an artificial beak for a Philippine Eagle named Pag-asa and a Black Palm Cockatoo. He had also installed titanium rods in upper and lower canines on a jaguar.

"A team of doctors composed of veterinarians, a dentist, a dental technician, and an oro facial prosthetic orthodontist will assist in the surgery," Donato said. "Four of them are Filipinos, one is American, and the other is Japanese." As the moment, however, putting on a permanent artificial nose would have to wait since Tiger is still growing.

After much deliberation, the team decided to wait until the pup was one-year-old. Donato said that he does not expect a lot of problems to crop up while Tiger awaits the operation.

Despite his missing nose, however, Tiger is getting along just fine, his sense of smell fully functional. According to Tiger's new owner, the dog is very playful and affectionate, following her all the time around the house. "He seems to know who genuinely cares for him," she said.

CAMPUS TOUR
The Bombing Patrollers campus tour took off recently at the Jose Rizalia Memorial High School in Mandaluyong City with, Mandaluyong Mayor Neomi Gonzales and with Quezon (right) and second from right, respectively as special guests. The grooming and personality seminars were designed for high school students to learn their HR schools manners and excellence. Also in photo are Metro Manila Mayor Sporter Foundation president Mayor Bobbie Fernando, Omar Mata, Colgate Palmolive Philippines Inc. general manager, and Palmolive Naturals endorser Rissy Reyes. RAMON ESTELLER

A FILE picture taken Feb. 13, 1932 shows Albert Einstein and his second wife Elsa at El Mirador Hotel in a California desert resort. AFP

Letters reveal mysteries of Einstein's love affairs

JERUSALEM—ALBERT EINstein had half a dozen girlfriends and cried his wife Mileva Maric into "unmanned" affidavits, according to letters released on Monday that shed light on his messy married affairs.

The wild-haired Jewish physicist, renowned for his theory of relativity, spent little time at home. He lectured in Europe and in the United States, where he died in 1955 at age 76. But Einstein wrote hundreds of letters to his family.

Previous released letters suggested the marriage in 1903 to his first wife Mileva Maric, mother of his two sons, was miserable. They divorced in 1919 and he soon married his cousin, Elsa. He cheated on her with his secretary, Betty Neumann.

In the new volume of letters released on Monday by Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Einstein described about six women with whom he spent time with and received gifts from while being married to Elsa.

In the early 1900s, Hedi Einhorn, daughter of a Budapest businessman, was almost 1,400 letters in Hebrew University, which Einstein helped found.

But Margot decided that the letters may be released publicly until 2014, 50 years after her death. She died on July 5, 1986.

Some of the women identified by Einstein include Estella, Hedi, Toni, and his "Russian spy lover," Margarita. Others are referred to only by initials, like M. and L.

"It is true that M. followed me to England and has chasing after me is getting out of control," he wrote in a letter to Margot in 1931. "One of all the dames. I am in fact attached only to Mr. L., who is absolutely harmless and devoted." In another post to Margot, Einstein asked his step-daughter to pass on "a little letter for Margarita, so as not provoking curious eyes with Affifi." The new batch of letters, for the first time included replies from Einstein's family friends Caufmann, chair of the Albert Einstein Wheelchair Exhibition at Hebrew University said.

This, he told reporters, helped shatter myths that the Nobel Prize-winning scientist was always cold to women and his family.

"To think Mileva let him with this great man friendship and understanding is Hitlers and his sons," Caufmann said.

Caufmann said that though Einstein's later marriage to Elsa was best described as a "marriage of convenience," he wrote to her almost every day. Admitting, among other things, his regret, more touring and lecturing in Europe.

"Soon I'll be fed up with the (theory of) relativity" Einstein wrote in a postcard to Elsa in 1926. "Even such a thing fades away when one is too involved with it."

Einstein lived and studied in the 1920's at Oxford, where he hid from the Nazis. A German colleague in one of his letters to Elsa, had told him "he not even come near the Germans border because the rage against me is so out of control."

In the same letter, which he wrote in 1933, his then a decade before the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Holocaust, Einstein writes: "One fears everywhere the competition of the expelled 'brainy' Jews. We are even more burdened by our strength than by our weakness." Reuters

WORLD BRIEFS

Plot to harm Thaksin probed

BANGKOK—Thai authorities were investigating reported a plot to "harm" Thaksin Shinawatra, the interim prime minister said Wednesday, as security around Thaksin increased as it was reportedly increased. "There were reports only plot to harm the prime minister two weeks ago, and we are checking on whether the reports are true," Jaroon Maimoo, the head of the National Intelligence Agency told The Associated Press. He did not provide other details. Thaksin, who normally has 12 bodyguards, was recently provided an additional 50 security officers by the Internal Security Centre. Thaksin assembled additional 50 guards to run his family. AP

30 Taliban killed in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR—Afghan and coalition security forces involved in a massive anti-Taliban operation killed 30 more rebels on Tuesday as US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld visited the country. The early morning air strike in southern Helmand province was the latest in a "Taliban commander and insurgents who had actively planned and carried out attacks on Afghan and coalition forces," a coalition spokesman said AFP. It "resulted in the estimated death of at least 30 Taliban fighters," Captain Julie Foreign but said 9 it was not immediately clear if Rahimullah the commander. AFP

Somali warlord surrenders to Islamists

MOGADISHU—One of Mogadishu's most warlords holding out against powerful Islamists surrendered after losing most of his militia in two days of fighting that killed more than 140 people, militia sources said on Tuesday. "I have become necessary to surrender and give peace a chance," a militia commander who is Abdi Awale Qaybdiid told Reuters. Big bidd battle but of an alliance of US-backed warlords who called themselves an anti-terror group. He beat fighting after the Islamists routed the other warlords and seized the Somali capital last month. Reuters

Saddam trial adjourned for 2 weeks

BAGHDAD—The judge called a two-week recess in the trial of Saddam Hussein on Tuesday, hoping to mute a boycott of the trial by the former Iraqi leader and his lawyers, but he warned that if they won't come back, court-appointed lawyers will make Saddam's closing arguments. The lawyers for Saddam and three top co-defendants in the case announced a day earlier they would boycott sessions because of the court's refusal of requests, including greater security after the slaying of one of their colleagues last month. Chief judge Rauf Abdel-Rahman made no sign he would meet the conditions, but said the lawyers have a duty to defend their clients. AP

Iraq PM shrugs off civil war fears

BAGHDAD—Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki shrugged off fears that Iraq was plunging into a civil war even as more than 40 people were killed on Tuesday, many of them in raging sectarian bloodshed. "I don't see the country falling into a civil war despite the regrettable activities of certain people who ignore that Iraq is united," Maliki told reporters in the Kurdish city of Arbil, where he met the country. "The security services are still in control of the situation and we would like to see our military movements political temperament rather than resort to force," he added. AFP

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

A. Pursuant to Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC-009), as amended, the public is hereby invited to the panel interviews of the following applicants for the position of DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN FOR MINDANAO, at the Session Hall Annex, 2nd Floor, Supreme Court Bldg.:

Thursday, July 27, 2006, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Thursday, July 27, 2006, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
1. ARANDIA, MARIA LORAINE A.	1. ELMAN, ROSCOLITO M.
2. AVILA, EUSEBIO M.	2. MACABANDO, PACA-AMINAH C.
3. BERDIDO, RAUL B.	3. NONTASUNDO, HUMPHREY T.
4. CINCHONSON, ROBERTO E.	4. SINACO, ALBERTO JR. D.
5. DARAY, MARIA T.	

The five other applicants, APOSTOL, Perigrin G.; ESPAÑOL, Jose Jr. M.; LANTORIA, Gerardo Jr. B.; and SUAYGCO, Manuel Q., have already been interviewed by the JBC on June 16, 2006.

B. The Judicial and Bar Council also announces that the following are applicants for different vacant judgeship positions:

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC), REGION VIII – ALLEN, NORTHERN SAMAR: (Br. 20) CAMPOMANES, Marilyn Pamugas; CLEMENS, Maria Montana; DELGADO, Nestor (Br. 6, Tacloban City); LUCOT, Leopoldo C.; MISOTRA, Rodolfo Jr.; OLIB-ANTING, Rosalyn A.; ORDOÑEZ, Nelia T.; PEDRAJAS, Ma. Victoria Lourdes; and TAN, Manuel P. Jr. (REGION III – PAGASAWA CITY, CAMARINES DEL SUR: (Br. 32) GARCIA, Alejandro T.; OANTE, Evangeline M. M.; POLICARPIO, Theodore L.

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES (MTCC), REGION II – BAGUIO CITY: (Br. 1) BACCILI, Maria B.

MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT (MTC), REGION VIII – LEYTE, LEYTE: DAPULA, Rodrigo O.; FORTUGO, Lean Thomas; LIM, Gloria Lasmen; MONTEJO, Manuel Jr. B.; PEDRON, Marisa Pascuzzo-an; TRIGONO, Jones Mercado.

MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT (MCTC), (REGION VI) – DUMALAG-TAPAZ-DAO: TAPAZ, Rodolfo A.; BARRIOS, Bienvenido A. P.; CATALAN, Ricardo Jesus B.; DIAZ, Artie Vince T. (REGION III – BINALONAN-MABINI-LABRADOR: BINALONAN, Pangasinan: LABRADOR, Pangasinan: MABINI, Pangasinan: BINALONAN-MABINI-LABRADOR: ESPIRITU, Ricardo Jr. V.; PASCUAL-ES, Vincent Theodore B.; SUGAY, Rolando L. Jr. (REGION VIII – BALO-I-PANTAO PANTAO RAGAT-LANAO DEL NORTE: CORCE, Arvin A.; MACUBENG, Arsenad M. (ARAMAZ); Sitio Sumarac, PANTAO RAGAT, Lanao Del Norte; TAMBILIGIL, Mitchell Rivera) DITAGAN-RAMAIN-BUBONG, LANAO DEL SUR: PIMPING, Mukadi M.

Thursday may submit any sworn complaints, written report, or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants not later than JULY 26, 2006 to the JBC Secretariat.

C. The JBC is now accepting applications for judicial positions in the following courts:

NCR
TAGUIG-PATEROS CITY
RTC Br. 153

REGION I
ILOCOS
MTCC Batac
MTCC Laoag-Paoay
Laoag-Bacarra
Sarrat-Pagudpud-Piddig
MTC Bacarra-Badoc
Badoc
MTC Pagudpud-Burgos
MTC Piddig-Solsona
MTC Sarrat-Dingras
MTC Solsona-Banna
Dingras
MTC Vintar-Pasuquin
Vintar
MTC Bangui-Burgos
Bangui
MTC Nueva Era-Marcos
Nueva Era
MTC Pasuquin-Bacnotan
Pasuquin
MTC Tubao-Luna
Tubao
MTC Sto. Tomas
MTC Sto. Tomas-Agoo
Agoo
MTC Tagudin-Sto. Domingo
Tagudin
MTC Sto. Domingo-Cabugao
Cabugao
MTC Santiago-Candon
Santiago
MTC Candon
MTC Candon
MTC Sta. Lucia-Salcedon
Sta. Lucia
MTC Salcedon-San Emilio
Salcedon
MTC Narvacan-Magsingal
Narvacan
MTC Santa-Bantay
Santa
MTC Vigan
MTC Vigan
MTC Caoayan-Sta. Catalina
Caoayan
MTC Sto. Domingo-Sta. Cruz
Sto. Domingo
MTC Bantay-Sta. Maria-Burgos
Bantay
MTC Candaba-Bacnotan-Libtong-San Emilio
San Emilio
MTC Galimuyod-Tadiangan
Galimuyod
MTC Cervantes-Quirino
Cervantes
MTC Sta. Cruz-Sta. Lucia
Sta. Cruz
MTC Quirino-Burgos
Quirino
MTC Alilem-Sugpon
Alilem
MTC Bangar
Bangar
MTC Luna
Luna
MTC Naguilian
Naguilian
REGION II
CAGAYAN
MTCC Tuguegarao
MTC Tuguegarao
MTC Solana-Enrile
Solana
MTC Tuao-Piat
Tuao
MTC Amulung-Sta. Praxedes
Amulung
MTC Gattaran-Lal-lo
Gattaran
MTC Aparri-Camalaniugan
Aparri
MTC Abulug-Pamplona
Abulug
MTC Ballesteros-Buguey
Ballesteros
MTC Alcala-Baggao
Alcala
MTC Peñablanca-Sta. Ana
Peñablanca
ISABELA
MTCC Ilagan
MTC Ilagan
MTC Roxas-Mallig
Roxas
MTC Cauayan
MTC Cauayan
MTC Alicia-Angadanan
Alicia
MTC Echague-San Agustin
Echague
MTC Jones-Sta. Maria
Jones
MTC Santiago-Sto. Tomas
Santiago
MTC Cabagan-Sta. Maria
Cabagan
MTC Tumauini
Tumauini
MTC Ramon-San Mariano
Ramon
MTC Cordon-Reina Mercedes
Cordon
MTC Angadanan-San Guillermo
Angadanan
NUEVA VIZCAYA
MTCC Bayombong
MTC Bayombong
MTC Solano
MTC Bambang
MTC Aritao
MTC Dupax
MTC Dupax
MTC Kasibu
MTC Kasibu
MTC Quezon-Diadi
MTC Quezon
MTC Tabuating
2nd MTC Kayapa-Sta. Fe-Alfonso Castañeda
Kayapa
QUIRINO
2nd MTCC Cabarroguis
Cabarroguis
MTC Diffun
MTC Diffun
MTC Saguday-Nagtipunan
Saguday
REGION III
AURORA
MTCC Baler
MTC Baler
MTC Dipaculao-Dinalungan
Dipaculao
2nd MTCC Maria Aurora
Maria Aurora
Casiguran
MTC Casiguran
BATAAN
MTCC Balanga
MTC Balanga
MTC Orani
MTC Orani
MTC Abucay-Hermosa
Abucay
MTC Samal-Morong
Samal
MTC Bagac-Pilar-Orion
Bagac
MTC Mariveles
MTC Mariveles
2nd MTCC Orani-Samal
2nd MTCC Abucay-Pilar
4th MTCC Bagac-Morong
Morong
BULACAN
MTCC Malolos
MTC Bocaue
MTC Guiguinto
MTC Hagonoy
MTC Malolos
MTC Malolos
MTC Malolos
MTC Meycauayan
MTC Obando
MTC Pandi
MTC Paombong
MTC Plaridel
MTC Pulilan
MTC Pulilan
MTC Sta. Maria
MTC Sta. Maria
MTC Valenzuela
MTC Valenzuela
MTC Valenzuela

The WORLD

Edna Lorenzo B. Bueza

RESCUE workers carry an injured passenger to the hospital from inside the mangled compartment of one of the bombed trains at Mahim railway station in Bombay July 11. AP

World leaders condemn India blasts

Tragedy revives horrors of Madrid, London bombings

LONDON—LEADERS worldwide on Tuesday condemned a series of deadly train bomb attacks in India's financial capital Bombay (Mumbai) which claimed at least 190 lives and vowed to step up the global fight against terrorism.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who only last week cranked the nervous anniversary of the July 7 London bombings, said in a statement he was "absolutely clear" that Islamic extremists were behind the attacks in India's financial capital Bombay (Mumbai) which claimed at least 190 lives and vowed to step up the global fight against terrorism.

"We take a terror attack in any place in the world, especially one on a public transport system, as a serious warning," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Tuesday.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which runs the system, also announced increased security on its rail lines, tunnels and bridges and in Grand Central Terminal and Pennsylvania Station.

During the evening rush hour, teams of police officers checked commuters' bags inside Penn Station and the Herald Square subway stop, located in the heart of one of Manhattan's busiest shopping districts.

"I don't know how much good it's going to do, but it can't hurt," said commuter Steve Cohen, an attorney from Brooklyn.

The day began unobtrusively as police went up to response to the mass transit bombings in London. NYPD officials have refused to say how many officers have been mobilized in the past year or specify where and when they mostly throw. They argue that by making the number unpredictable they can keep would-be bombers off balance.

The city's 468 subway stations serve an average 4.5 million daily riders.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said there were no plans to raise the nation's threat level. AP

RESCUE workers search for bodies inside the wreckage of one of the local trains hit by bombs at Mahim railway station in Bombay July 11. AP

NY subway security tightened

NEW YORK—AFTER DEADLY COORDINATED attacks on packed commuter rail trains in India, New York City officials upped security measures on the subways, sending hundreds of additional police officers to patrol rail conduct random bag searches.

The New York Police Department said the measures were precautionary and there had been no specific threats to New York.

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Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said there were no plans to raise the nation's threat level. AP

Basayev's death still shrouded in mystery

GROZNY, RUSSIA—THE SPECTACULAR killing of Russia's most wanted man, Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev, ends a years-long hunt for the mastermind behind the most murderous terrorist in and around war-torn Chechnya.

But questions lingered Tuesday about the operation that Russian officials say led to Basayev's death when a dynamite-filled truck exploded close to his car in a village in neighboring Ingushetia. By some accounts the blast was accidental.

Russia's defense ministry hailed the death of "our Bin Laden" as a "landmark event." Still, Sergei Ivanov warned that the "22-year struggle with Chechen terrorists and rebels...which has spread across the impoverished and unruly Muslim North Caucasus in Russia's south...are not over yet."

Russian newspapers reported Tuesday that Basayev's whereabouts resulted from a carefully planned secret service operation that used a shipment of weapons and explosives to entrap Basayev.

Unnamed security officials quoted by the Novaya Gazeta daily said the preparations took six months. Intelligence agents allegedly let him escape last fall in a way in which Russian special services detonated the explosives at the moment when he got near the truck, the officials said.

The Kommersantskaya Pravda daily reported that the undercover agent who was traveling in Basayev's convoy and planted a detonator under the truck received a payment of up to $300,000.

Not surprisingly, that version of events was met with a mixed reception.

The Ekho Moskvy radio agency, citing an unidentified law enforcement official in southern Russia, reported Tuesday that Basayev had been killed by a rocket that burned in on his phone.

Chechen rebel envoy Akhmed Zakayev denied that Basayev's killing occurred during a special operation, and insisted the explosion was an accident. AP

Israel expands offensive

GAZA—JERUSALEM TIMES-SWIFT In the renewed Gaza Strip on Wednesday, Israeli and self-targeting top Hamas commanders killed on Palestinians as Israel broadened a two-week-old offensive.

Israel has vowed to continue the operation, which has already sent the Gaza where 65 Palestinians, most militants, have captured Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit and stop launching makeshift rockets into the border.

Dozens of armoured vehicles smashed into central Gaza before dawn, effectively cutting the main road down the territory from which Israel withdrew less than a year ago after a 38-year occupation.

Israel has rejected calls from the governing Hamas Islamic movement for negotiations on a prisoner swap for the 19-year-old. Shalit, 3, who was captured on June 25 has stepped up the rocket fighting between Israeli and Palestinian since 2004.

In an attempt to kill senior commander of Hamas's armed wing, an Israeli air raid brought down a three-storey building on the northern edge of Gaza City.

At least six people, including two women and two children, were killed in the attack that turned the house into a tangle of twisted metal, broken concrete, blood and dust.

But the blast and air strike on a nearby car park also saw Hamas leaders, militants said. Abu Anas al-Ghandour, commander in northern Gaza, was not in a life-threatening condition. Hamas militants helped capture Shalit in a cross-border.

"There was an attack on a structure in the northern Gaza strip, used by senior members of the Hamas armed group," an army spokesperson said. Reuters

GENGHIS' WARRIORS
Mongolian horsemen in traditional costumes perform during the Naadam opening ceremony in Ulan Bator, Mongolia to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Genghis Khan's march to world conquest on Tuesday with festivities that ordered mass commemoration, genuine reverence and pure politicking. AP

Iran nuclear talks still at impasse

BRUSSELS—IRAN VOWED TUESDAY not to cave in to international pressure over its nuclear ambitions, as the European Union lamented a lack of progress in talks on a Western offer to defuse the standoff.

Tehran's top nuclear envoy negotiator, Ali Larijani, speaking after talks with European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana and other European officials, warned of a "long road" ahead to solve the crisis.

"The meeting was disappointing," Cristina Gallach told AFP saying the latest round of discussions with the Tehran envoy "was not satisfactory". The statements came after hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, speaking in Tehran, promised Iran would continue its nuclear activities "for as long as it needs and would not back down.

"The Iranian nation is determined to obtain all of its rights, including full nuclear rights and the complete exploitation of the nuclear fuel cycle," Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying by the IRNA news agency.

Iran insists that it only wants to develop nuclear energy but in lack of cooperation with the United Nations nuclear watchdog and enrichment activities have raised suspicions that it is covertly trying to build an atomic bomb.

In an effort to get it to freeze sensitive enrichment...a process used to fuel a nuclear reactor but which could also be used to make explosives...the West on June 6 offered Iran a package of economic and political incentives.

The Brussels meeting was aimed at taking stock of developments since then, and to lay the groundwork for talks in France on Wednesday between foreign ministers from the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany.

Solana said he would report to the ministers from the six powers which drew up the offer and "we will make an analysis ... to see how we proceed." AFP

Japan, S. Korea at odds over response to missile tests

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA ANGRILY accused Japan of arrogant and reckless misuse on Tuesday a day after Japanese leaders "crazy" after South Koreans consider a chilling possibility or a pre-emptive strike on North Korea that would violate Japan's constitution.

As discord escalated between Washington's two major allies in the region, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld met secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, returned to China. Attention there focused on whether Beijing, North Korea's main ally, would persuade the North to ease tensions over its launching of seven missiles last September by returning to the six-party nuclear talks.

Ban China said it did not expect a quick resolution, nor did it support a move by Japan and the United States to pass a UN Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on North Korea. It said such a resolution would be an "overreaction."

"If approved, it will aggravate contradictions and increase tension," China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Jiang Yu, said at a news conference. "It will harm peace and stability in the Japan-Peninsula and Northeast Asian region, and hurt efforts to resume six-party talks, as well as lead to the UN Security Council splitting."

Bush's trip came hours after the Security Council delayed for a second day a vote on the Japan-sponsored resolution, which officials in China and South Korea fear could lay the groundwork for sanctions or even military action against the North.

The Council delayed the vote while the Chinese deputy foreign minister and chief nuclear negotiator, Wu Dawei, was talking with the North Koreans in Pyongyang, the North's capital. Wu's mission was critical for Washington because Japan and South Korea continued to quarrel over how to react to North Korea's missile tests, a split that experts say North Korea will exploit.

"There was an important decision to postpone the vote on the resolution, because the Chinese government had an important diplomatic mission going on," Bill told reporters in Beijing. "Obviously we are in a rather crucial period."

Wu's visit to Pyongyang was seen as a test of China's increasingly doubtful influence on the world's most powerful leaders. Separately, Jang told reporters in Beijing, the president of the North Korean parliament, arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for a trip that was scheduled to include a meeting with President Hu Jintao. AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

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- WBM poll: Pacquiao new pound for pound No. 1/A23

PATRIOTIC pays off for Yap, who bags the Most Valuable Player trophy in last night's annual awards.

Giants take 3-1 cushion

Use fast start to crush Bulls; Yap bags MVP award

By Jove Marzeda

THE STORY many thought would go down the wire ended right in the first half.

Purefoods pulled a fast one and never looked back to score a within game of capturing the PBA Philippine Cup with a 89-81 win over Red Bull last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

There was actually no need for season MVP Jimmy Yap and Rudy Raymundo to put up scintillating figures as the Giants' support cast of Jun Limpot, Glen Pingris, Richard Yee and Paul Artadi proved too much for the Bulls.

Limpot led the pack[illegible] scoring night points in the first quarter, Raymundo's perimeter was impressive and Artadi registered ten-break plays as the Giants built a 22-11 spread.

The Giants sustained a great show by pulling away 60-38 with Pingris virtually unstoppable inside the paint on both ends while Yee, who lost his shimmer in Game 3, getting back to his swanky self unleashed a thunderous dunk that sent the Araneta crowd into a frenzy.

It was a night that couldn't have gotten any better for Yap, who edged Raymundo and Red Bull star Enrico Villanueva for the coveted MVP trophy. The sweet-shooting University of the East product won one of the closest races for the award[illegible] years after losing the nod[illegible] of the year trophy.

"This is the biggest achievement of my career," said Yap in Filipino. "But I'll be more happy if we win the championship."

The former UE Warrior was named MVP during the 2003 GAP season and got Mythical Five honors in the PBL in 2004 but never gained a championship except in high school.

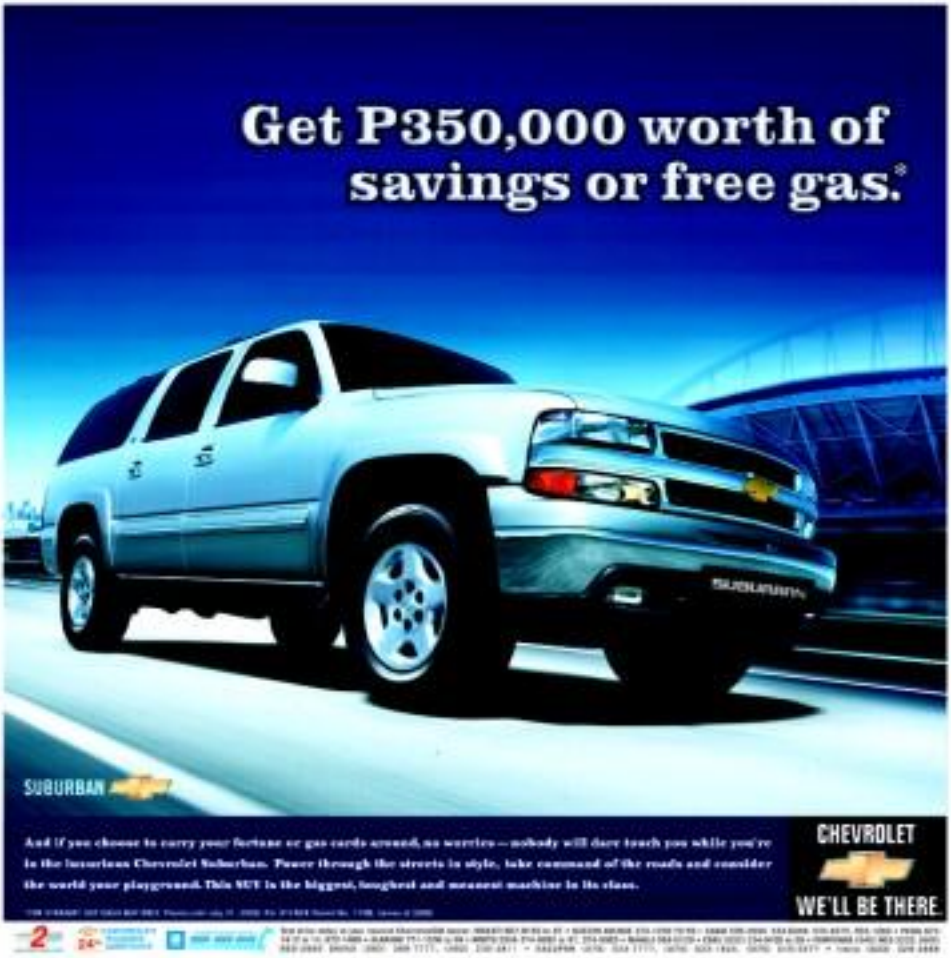
"It's already done [unveiling]. My focus now is to win the championship not only for myself but his entire teammates as well," said the 34-year-old Yap, who is known[illegible] as the playing coach as the husband of the popular Kris Aquino.

Yap also joined Raymundo, Villanueva, Purefoods' Roger Yap and Lordy Tugade of Red Bull in the Mythical[illegible] team. Larry Rosacker of Red Bull was named top rookie.

More importantly, he helped add spice to Purefoods' first half[illegible] to get nearer to the goal of winning a championship.

Yap[illegible] back-to-back three-pointers, the second triple most

DAWES A24



Fiery starts for Ardina, Rodriguez in Jr World

By Joey Arcano

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—It's not the arrow but the archer.

Dorie Ardina, proving the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, fired a three-under par 70 on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) and took second place in girls' Class C at the start of the California Junior World Golf Championships in various courses here.

Cyna Rodriguez also sparkled in another great start by the Philippines in the annual tourney of a thousand players representing 32 countries, carding a one-under 71 to secure third place in girls' Class B.

Already one of the most feared entries in such a runway and three-peat 3-finishes in her last four Junior World stints, Ardina needed just a day to get comfortable with the borrowed clubs she got after losing her set to thieves last Sunday during the opening ceremony.

With a few birdie runs at the turn that included three in a row from the 14th at the Carlsbad course in San Marcos, El Capitan, the 12-year-old Ardina quickly took her opponent place in the leaderboard and will tee off Wednesday today Japan's Aki Sugimoto in last corridor.

Rodriguez used the experience of teenage marches all over him the past months to give herself a winning chance of retaining the Class B tiara.

A bogey on the last hole at the Oak Glen course of the Spanish Bower saw her drive to third in her division where Elise Arde of Florida (69) and Chanapat Jin-Aroon of Thailand (70) were holding top.

Except for at least two age-group brackets, ISP hopes to the values divisions battled with Filipino entries needing to overcome big deficits in the second round to salvage 'drinked' slots available in the final round.

Meryl Montalbo made the shot of the day a 3-wood tee shot on the 186th hole of Cottonwood that bounced into the cup to her first ace. She will need more of those shots to surprise the girls' Class C star after she ended up with an 82.

"Everything is fine with my eyes (belo but I really take my California dress. It's my comfort. Ask," said Ardina in Filipino after battling the tough afternoon conditions. She would have tied for the lead if not for a bad break on the 17th where her birdie attempt from 10 feet lipped out.

Of those remaining in the title hunt, Miguel Tabuena stood six shots behind in Class C after a one-under 72 at Cottonwood, Migga Pua and JC Gonzales were five strokes off in ninth position in Class D with their 82s while Mia Legaspi and Abby Arevalo also traded by five in a tie for fifth in girls' Class E.

Chloe Hoyos was missing third in girls' Class F nine shots behind the lead.

Marvel Payon made up for the opening hiccup of Wesley Soperal (75) with a 73 that enabled the scion of the popular duo to join the group in 14th place at the water-laced Lawrence Welk course.

In the 15-17 years section of Jimmy Payon, Thomas Aquino salvaged (for-hers round) of 74 among the 89 entries rebels was good for a tie for 26th spot while Debbie de Villa was in a large group at 40th following a 77.

"It's not the kind of start we wanted but at least, we're in contention in second division. I hope we hide to go all out tomorrow," said delegation head Jong Idanan.

MARVI Montalbo shows the ball she used to score her ace.

New Congress out of the question, says football president Romualdez

THE NEXT ELECTION AND RECOMAR congress of the Philippine Football Federation (PFF) will be held in November next year and not proposed exam for the removal of the incumbent presidents in an Extraordinary Congress.

PFF president Johnny Romualdez stressed this yesterday in response to the call last week by Senator Jamby Madrigal to make Dr. Laguna 16, president Arturo Pacificador Jr. and National Capital Region (NCR) head Jose Rizo Bautista resign for Phil. Team Tuesday.

"All charges made in the forum were already addressed earlier by the PFF," said Romualdez in a hand message to the Inquirer yesterday.

He said anyone nominated for president and seconded may run in next year's election, adding that an Extraordinary Congress may be called only by the presidents or upon request of at least two-thirds of the members.

Romualdez pointed out that the president can be removed through a proposal by the Board of Governors to Congress and "on such proposed exam."

Earlier, Romualdez said events as those by the 104 and NCRSA "indicate they are set to destroy Philippine football and the PFF by unconstructive, subversive deeds they can (find), and or perpetrated."

"They seem to want to give the impression the PFF and its elected officials are protecting funds intended for development. We categorically deny this as will be proven by the ongoing internal audit and as has been shown by the FIBA audits and the reports of our external auditors and reports to our Congress and to our Board of Governors," he said.

The two FIBA asian an audit to determine where about 990 million funds given to the PFF by the world football federation (FIBA) in the last three years were spent.

Romualdez said he had agreed to a request by Pacificador and NCRSA representative Ramon Jose to audit PFF's books for the two years of their respective association's SEC registrations is lifted."

He added, however, that an internal audit is already being conducted by three provincial association presidents from Laguna, Batangas and the LDS and NCRSA could ask them any question regarding the PFF's finances.

He emphasized that the NCRSA has the option to file estafa charges and the courts have the option to decide that the association has a legal personality despite the revocation of its SEC registrations.

"But it is obvious our option is none that the establishment work on the lifting of those revocations before opening our books to them," said Romualdez. "It is also our option to name a reasonable time and date and to file reasonable procedures for any audit."

PSC to deal with private transport firms next week

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION will sit down and talk with the different private transport companies from which the 2005 Southeast Asian Games organizers rent at least P30 million starting next week, according to PSC commissioner Richie Garcia yesterday.

This is in line with the PSC's commitment to pay for the arrears left by the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee which reportedly amounts to more than P50 million.

Of the amount, P20 million was earmarked for the transportation of more than 10,000 foreign and local athletes and officials to and from the competition venues around the country, which formed the SEAG last December.

The remaining P20 million, according to the PSC, was reserved for the food and allowances of more than 3,000 volunteers in the major hubs of the Games that include Metro Manila, Subic, Bacolod City and Cebu City.

Palace is also reportedly being dragged by the firm which penned the SEA Games Daily and the unofficial official website.

But Garcia said they will settle first the transport fares and meet with their heads. The firm provided VIP cars, vans, buses and trucks during the week-long SEA Games.

He added that the PSC will ask the Pagcor to help them defray the expenses on top of the monthly subsidy they get from the National Sports Development Fund.

Wild gossip, play of words can't save RP football

THE HUNT FOR A DAZY PELI DAWN spot, where to serve the World Cup 8-ed qualifying but, led to the discovery of the finest player in town, at Sidney Yulo's Mercy', an exquisite resting and watering hole at the Dasmeñan in Makati.

Make-mine Caesar's salad toppings on iconic greens, atop the cho crust that's crisp, tender and perfectly tasteless which turn into a star-of-the-restaurants-could be easy dinner date prepared in the fabulously newest genie.

All seats were taken, so could only be expected, with top-seeded national serv. er Billy Mann. At where the host had reserved a table before the main serves, opting to do the watching somewhere at Antipas after the whims of friends and grand kids continued to swell by the minute.

No great plans, of course, was Franco dapper Jonathan Zuñiga, a sports god in his country, but whose name suddenly became synonymous to soccer athletes after he was sent on his depressing his many hand into the chest of one burly Indian defender.

***

The French team captain thus belonged the even heartbreak of an entire nation that's famous for its stubbed, multi-tattooed citizens.

A dirty way indeed, to punctuate a great career, but that's how the cookie crumbles. Zidane nicely displaying to the whole world how it does not pay to always take yourself too seriously.

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

Zidane could've been provoked. But it definitely did not feel good that one great player, who had been mentioned alongside the great Pelé, would squander all the hard-earned sixth and dignity in a single outburst of heartedness.

Suddenly, the French were feeling it rather hard to laugh at themselves. But couldn't they be blamed for feeling their soul?

Capturing the Jules Rimet would have many than made up for the emotional letdown following the controversial loss suffered by Boris (in Lambeau in his bid to host the 2012 Olympics.

***

It would have been a great follow-up to the World Cup win by France in 1998 which also starred Zidane.

Well, here at least, those who haven't care for football could only rejoice amid hideous claims that the development of the sport all over the country was on the right track.

In the first place, there are practically no tangible signs that football in the country is alive and kicking, except for sporadic skirmishes in remote areas.

OK, the spirit of soccer, which once had stoked basketball in popularity in the Philippines, may not be totally dead.

But it's in a painfully decayed state, as could be gleaned from the lack of success and any activities in fifteen Manila and suburban locations.

***

Of course, top officials of the Philippine Football Federation, who got additions in support naturally from FIFA, deserve the body of world football, to use their ears on the right track.

If there's something wrong about the sport here, an elaborate PFF head Johnny Romualdez, if wins in not having advertised the growth of football in the Philippines.

Romualdez mentions great football leaps out in Mindanao but, on the whole, there was nothing truly great to advertise.

There is definitely a better, surefire way to bring RP football back on its feet, an alternative by a group supposed to solve what they called the dysfunctional rule at the PFF.

Romualdez has been accused of lack of transparency and problem-makers.

Ace Pacificador, Laguna Football Association president, blasted Romualdez for abruptly canceling the traditional Inter-Provincial tourney which Laguna was all set to host last December.

Pacificador also cited the case of a Laguna football official who was suspended for 18 months by the PFF for attacking a player with a knife, but who ended up as a PFF adviser for youth development, "only as al-kawsian to food."

There was also the scrapping of the national squads in the Asian Under-19 tournament last January, because the PFF missed the registration deadline, Pacificador added.

***

Meanwhile, Dulcelo Ikemoto, National Capital Region Football Association president, continued to challenge Romualdez to come up with an honest accounting of the millions in support funds that he got from Fifa annually.

Romualdez, as claimed Ikemoto, just continued to evade the issue.

Ikemoto and Pacificador were joined by former PFF head Nazario Sakay in attacking Romualdez for failure of leadership.

In fact, Romualdez had previously hinted to this reporter how lucky he was for not getting sued for libel following accusations in this column that millions in international football support funds of the PFF were not being properly utilized.

Romualdez really stuck to his words: no dollar. They're not advertised grossly yet football has its flaws.

That, of course, is not easy to believe.

At best, the Romualdez claim could sound like wild gossip from someone who prefers from empty football development.

Yet, unlike that great player at Messe in Milan, football is not dead in the Philippines is nowhere near around the corner.

Zhuhai crash continues to haunt Tyson

TYSON'S

AIAIA FORMULA Three star Tyson Yeo's harrowing crash in the last round of the series last month at the Zhuhai International Circuit in China continues to haunt him.

Aside from coughing up nearly P2 million, one P1 million as earlier reported, he rebuild his Dallara F04 nearly smashed to pieces when he slammed into Speedworks Asia teammate Cabe Akin Menon's stalled car. It will have to shell out an additional $2,000 as fine for disregarding the double yellow flag" in effect during lap 8 of the 12-lap race.

The same fine has been slapped on driver DJ Jun Bautista of JA Motorsports whose blocking maneuver on Ip in that fateful lap of Round 3 forced the 18-year-old Filipino to careen in his right into Dale Merrell's car that had stalled in front of the grandstand a lap earlier.

The Hong Kong Automobile Association, one of the bodies that has jurisdiction over the race, had initially wanted to fine the two $1,000 each and their points earned in the race (2 for Ip [Akin] and 15 for Bautista) [several] for included from the standings.

The two, however, appealed to the Automobile association of the Philippines, the body sanctioning the AF3 races, and got a reprieve.

Jun Espino, a member of the committee on race sports of the PAF, reasonably said the two were fined for "disregarding the double yellow flag during the race because of unsafe racing conditions.

The reprieve on the points earned during Round 3 means Ip will go into Round 6 with his series-leading 87 points and 2.5 points lead over Bautista. Yeo, who is presently sidelined by his sponsor to enjoy a four-point lead over Filipino Dado Weua of Team Goddard and Indonesian Ali Ashkaro of Asia Racing who are tied for third and fourth places with 52 points each.

Ip left for Zhuhai yesterday, shelving plans to delay his departure, to enable him to test his racing machine on Round 6 circuit.

Maningding guns for victories in 2 disciplines

ULF Maningding car gets ahead of the rivals.

Spring Oil-Parañaque shoots for finals slot vs Pagadian

BACOLOD CITY—SPRING COOKING Oil-Parañaque shoots for the second finals berth when it faces expansion Pagadian today in Game 3 of their best-of-three series in the 2006 Euromex Ready-MIX regional basketball championship at the city gym here.

The Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Parañaque Vice Mayor Jaime Ilhaw are the slight favorites in the 6 p.m. contest.

If Spring Parañaque repeats its 82-73 victory over Mayor Antonio Go's Explorers in Game 1, it would arrange a rematch showdown with last year's winner Tanduay Costa.

Mayor Reynaldo Parcasio's Costa Ilocos rogers clinched the first finals slot by winning Game 2, 82-70, last Monday for a sweep of Batang Tagaytay in the other conference series.

This is the first time in three years that the Cooking Oil Masters have gone this far in the tourney sponsored by Euromex, Inc. Subjects Liners, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Mediven and Prime Channel.

"Pagadian is the league's second-best team in the classification round based on its win-loss record," said Spring Parañaque coach Yong Garcia. "It is capable of coming back. We have to be ready for that."

PBL reserees Larry Rodriguez and Marvin Ortigoza are expected to lead the Cooking Oil Masters' bid.

The Explorers are leaning on ex-pros Peter Simon, Bong Mavasta and Michael Ongcillo and PBL reserve Leo Gerasmio.

"We lost control of the game in the end," said Pagadian coach Virgenio "Bong" Avila Cruz. "The boys need to stay focused tomorrow."

RP bows out of Jones Cup

A PHILIPPINE TEAM CHAMPIONING AS SMC-Pilipinas bowed out of the Williams Jones Cup yesterday, dropping a 91-86 decision to Kazakhstan in the Taipei Physical Education College Gymnasium.

With their fourth loss in five outings, the Smartmatic-Team built for a Real Estate spot in the eight-team tourney.

The hastily formed RP squad ended a three-game slide by beating Australia two days ago and faced a must-win situation in its last three games.

Down by three points in the closing seconds, SMC-Pilipinas ran up shooter Teodoro Isonhetser for a wide-open three-point shot that rimmed out.

"We all crashed the boards and Isonhetser got a breakaway layup after they got the rebound," said national coach Chot Reyes.

"I can't say enough about our players. Three of our team losses have been five points or less, and all came down to the final 2 minutes. We could've easily been 4-1. But such is basketball. What's important is we're investing in our future. And it looks bright with the 23 and under guys we have on this team."

The Kazakhs take on the athletes in Action of the United States next.

SAMUEL Steve (right) of San Beda attempts to put up a shot against Jason Buttenhorne of San Sebastian in yesterday's game.

Lions mangle Stags; Altas clip Bombers

By Marc Anthony Reyes

YESTERDAY'S HEAVY DOWNPOUR PROVIDED A PERFECT BACKdrop for San Beda's cold-blooded massacre of San Sebastian.

The Red Lions held the Stags to only five points in the first quarter and went on to score a 71-32 rout for their fourth straight win in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Ian Bedia led Philippine Christian University-Altas to a 68-63 win over Philippine Merchant Marine School in the second game of a double-header.

Third Mira unleashed 21 points and Xerxes rookie Lee Sang-ayson completed a three-point play in the final minutes as Perpetual overcame six-minute deficit to clip Jose Rizal University, 79-77, in the other season match. The Altas broke a three-game skid for a 2-3 record while the Bombers fell to their fourth straight loss.

Lee's three-point play lowered the Altas to a 78-75 lead after JRU had closed in on 79-76 behind Jake Wilson, Jayson Nocum and Mark Pascua in the last two minutes.

Samuel Steve also delighted the crowd as the 6-foot-5 Pagsibigan grabbed 23 rebounds on top of seven points, five blocks, three assists and one steal.

Bedia, the Light Bombers found the middleman, 6'6"/0, to post their third win in four games while handing their first loss of the season.

Red Cube-Singkit's clash was tied five times.

Second Game (Jrs)

PERPETUAL (8)—Mira 21, Aong 11, Dacles 14, Lee 3, Manuel 7, Mabini 2, Pedro 7, Ilagan 2, Pantaleon 0, Mandanas 0, Lacsi 2.

JRU (9)—Wilson 15, Pascua 12, Nocum 13, Sedurante 12, Cagayo 12, Sena 0, Ilagan 2, Rosario 2, Amparado 1, Quigui 0.

Quarters: 20-13, 44-31, 62-52, 79-77.

Third Game (Srs)

LIGHT BOMBERS (79)—Ubaque 17, Alfaro 17, Dagami 11, Ilangkahan 5, Ribon 8, Cleto 2, Tenorio 6, Escobal 5, Ramella 3, Tagaysay 5.

MAR MARINER (68)—Alcuaz 14, Jacome 8, Suarez 7, Dela 0, Raymundo 0, Delgado 5, Sabanosa 4, Lindayo 1, Juan 3, Quigui 0, Bernabe 5, De Leon 2, Serapiona 5.

Quarters: 19-6, 31-13, 42, 71-62.

Petron Visayas taekwondo up

CEBU CITY—THE BEST TAEKWONDO JINS in the Visayas region will take center stage on July 16 when they compete in the 2006 Petron Visayas taekwondo championships at the Cebu Doctors gym here.

According to Philippine Taekwondo association's secretary general Rodolfo Sevenzajda, the event gives the sport's practitioners in the region the chance to show their skills.

No less than 300 Jins from PTA-affiliated chapters, schools and branches throughout the Visayas region are expected to compete in the following divisions: senior men and women, junior men and women, cadet boys and girls, and grade school boys and girls.

"The tournament is part of PTA's grassroots program," stresses Sevenzajda, who is also chair of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

The Visayas championships will be featured by Taekwondo TV, which is hosted by Master Jeff Tenorio and Mrs. Ana Pilar Limcolio every Sunday, 8:30 to 10 a.m. over DYSS.

The opening ceremony is set at 9 a.m.

Martial arts enthusiasts and other sports buffs are invited to watch the event which is supported by Rhoda, Accel and the Philippine Sports Commission chaired by William "Butch" Sanders.

WBM poll: Pacquiao new pound for pound No. 1

MANNY PACQUIAO RECEIVED YET ANother accolade after being named by the World Boxing Media (WBM) as the new No. 1 pound-for-pound fighter in the world.

Pacquiao, who is coming off a victory over Mexican Oscar "Chololo" Larios here at the Araneta Coliseum, replaced Floyd Mayweather at the top of the prestigious list, the Tagalog.com reported.

During among the members of the world ana-

dia is usually done in secrecy, thus Tagalog.com speculated that Pacquiao's rise to the top was aided by that victory over Larios and the 18th round stoppage of Mexican ring icon Erik Morales early this year.

Pacquiao has another scheduled fight against Mexican—the third installment of their well-hyped rivalry—in Las Vegas in November.

Trailing Pacquiao in the pound-for-pound list are some of the most notable names in boxing these days, including the second-ranked Shay weather.

Floyd Wright ranked third in the poll despite his draw with Jermain Taylor. The mid-Jlerweight champ, on the other hand, rose from sixth to fourth.

Bernard Hopkins made it to the mythical list at No. 10 after dominating Antonio Tarver in their last bout. The ageless Kenya boys, meanwhile, slipped out of the top 10.

PACQUIAO

Ateneo de Naga fellowship golf

THE ATENEO DE NAGA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS '81 is hosting a fellowship golf tournament on Sept. 1 at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club in Quezon City. Tee-off time is at 11 a.m. More than 100 golfers, including batch members and other Ateneo alumni, from different countries are expected to join the event which is part of the activity lookup to the grand Ateneo Homecoming on Dec. 30 at the Ateneo de Naga campus. Proceeds will be used to provide scholarship grants to deserving freshmen and sophomore students. Call 911-99-71 (globe), 758-5855 (telefax), 0917-401-81, 0406-9883 or 0918-5020-863/282, or the event organizer, Sam Severino, at (02) 400-10-86/ (02) 423-0863.

Reyes scores breakthrough win in karting

FRANCO REYES TOOK HIS FIRST victory of the season in the Mini Rok category during the fourth leg of the 30cc/Clutch Karting Series held on July 9 at the Boondocks Fun Trak in Pasay City.

The 14-year old Reyes, a Grade 4 student at the Ateneo de Manila and is coached by former karting great Elton Cuepio, earned the race from last place and then worked his way up into second at mid-distance of the 22-lap race.

Sliding his nose, Reyes traded fives Pascquale for a long time before making a keen stepping move four laps from the end to seize the lead, which he held on to and the checkered flag.

Third place went to Jaes Ordiola.

"It was a hard-earned victory ," said Reyes, driving for Jet Racing and sponsored by Indonesia Productions and Informaciones. "I don't do well in qualifying because I had problems with grip in the rain, that's why I started from the back of the grid.

Reyes will see action in the next leg of the series, which is scheduled on Aug. 12 and 13 at the Enchanted Kingdom, the site also his eighth victory in the short karting career. He is a member of Jet Racing's Asian Karting Open Championship which will be held in Indonesia next month.

REYES. Heart-stopping move

SPORTSWATCH

Defense & Arms Show up

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SHOOTING ASSOCIATION (PNSA) head coach Orlando Marquez will conduct a seminar titled, "Women in Olympics Shooting Events" at the SSDC Ateneo & Gaming Arms Direct Mall II, starting today at the Magallanes Hall of Old Magallanes II, Bridgestone, Makati/Alabang City. The seminar is free of charge. Marquez will conduct it on July 13 and 16, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The PNSA is a founding member of the Philippine Olympic Committee and is recognized by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).

Fastest Win stakes P.5M

A GUARANTEED PRIZE POOL OF P500,000 WILL BE distributed in the Zoom Fastest Elite Dirt Crab Distance Race, Zoom Fastest Elite Dirt Crab Championship Cup #1 on July 16 at the Zoom Racing Complex. Each category will carry a purse of P1,500. The fastest one elimination will get the top prize of P15,000. Likewise, the first 10 winners will receive a mountain bike, last 10 winners, mountain bike, showed way, P10,000 and washing machine and cabinet electronics. P5,000 and P1,000 will be given to the next 10 and 20 winners. Registration is on July 15 and 16, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The PNSA is a founding member of the Philippine Olympic Committee and is recognized by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).

Express derby at Las Piñas

MORE THAN 30 NON-STOP WINNERS WILL SPICE up the Express 2-year-olding, stamp derby, at Las Piñas Coliseum beginning at 1 tonight. According to coliseum manager Wes Velez, participant can bid two or three entries since only two guarantees are needed per entry. Entry fee is only P3,500 per horse. Trophies are donated by Ernest Sarmiento and Zaid Yacino. The annual Las Piñas Derby-derby will be held on Aug. 24 and 26, with winners Major Meneghetti as host. Screening of stage, 9-10 months old will start on Aug. 1. Screening is on Saturdays and Sundays, from 1-6 p.m. Call 873-1340 and 872-2850.

Espiritu capefest set July 30

SEVEN TEAMS HAVE REMARKED TO JOIN THE 10-TA Rising Cumbia Cup basketball tournament which now open on July 30. Teams are PSBC, PSPF Alabang, Home Court, Mandaluyong Riders, Las Piñas College Shoe Lines, Damsma All Stars, Bahay Tagaytay and Pinagpalam Alumni Intends. Other schools that have may call basketball tuner manager Danny Espiritu at 09 170 83 83 or Ramon Bercasio at 0921-7 39 0 08.

CHAMPIONS. Members of the TMS Ship Agencies Inc. pose after running away with the overall title in the recent National Open Track and Field Open in Palawan City, Nueva Ecija. Among those shown were coach Jeoffrey Cleus, Ralph Waldy Sagadan, Aileen Salonio, Arnold Villarubin, Henry Dagnil, Angelo Dalisay, Raoul Dionesio, Rex Gubbin and Rene Herrera. Other team members are Silvana Arellano, Mercedes Manipol, Grace Miller, Phoebe Que, Lea Theresa and Charlene Pagayon. Sportsman-businessman Terry Capellanes is president of TMS Ship Agencies Inc.

Villanueva rules Hise-Baras bike race

HOMEBOY TREGIE TIAM RIDES DY-ing Villanueva ruled the 2nd VP Mon Cycling Cup "Bike Fiesta in Bicol" which started and finished in front of the Hise-Baras Legislature Hall in Rizal over the weekend. The 35-year-old native of San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija, broke away in the last phase of the 1 laps criterion race to outsprint country Vincent Guerrero of Tarlac and Jay Ivan Gonzales for honors on route to the line. 30-seasoned established the title from the bowling champion Victor Espiritu who a former Trade Team member of Villanueva's Tiam Racing Team. "Ginulatan ang kalaban, nakuha ang atin ang bahay ng kalaban at pahinga na nila, bali na lang nakakalatan at nasa bed

day," said Villanueva, whose lead shocking in the last 4-kilometer round. He won 1 minutes 30 seconds. The race was organized by Olympic-based sports patron Rudy Prias and the Hise Cycling Club officials led by Rosalino and hosted by Baras Mayor Willie Robles. Villanueva pocketed the P1,000 top prize and a cultural jersey while Guerrero, Gonzales and Espiritu received P5,000, P3,000, red jersey and silver jersey, respectively. Prias, a former national-level cycling team manager (MBA), urged Villanueva to retain his career and promised to back his endeavors to bid to compete in an international event in the US.

SPORTS

JAMES: I believe in the direction this organization is headed.

Cavs fans breathe easy–James to stay

CLEVELAND—LEBRON JAMES AGREED early Wednesday to a three-year contract extension with the Cleveland Cavaliers, keeping the All-Star forward with the club through at least the 2009-10 season.

The contract includes an option that would allow James to extend the deal one season, the Cavaliers organization said on its website. The contract, which James is yet to sign, will take effect after the 2006-07 season.

"I know all along—and I had always said—that I wanted to stay here in Cleveland, so it's a terrific day for me and my family to actually make it official," James said in an interview on the team's website. "Now I can continue to concentrate on basketball and helping bring a championship to Cleveland."

Financial terms weren't revealed.

Although the 21-year-old James announced Saturday that he had agreed to an extension with the Cavs, the deal couldn't be finalized until Wednesday, when the NBA's moratorium on free agency ended.

The deal is a huge relief for a team that has been into contention in James' three seasons and fans who were counted the superstar might leave Cleveland.

"If I didn't believe in this team and this organization and the direction that we're headed, I wouldn't have signed [the extension]," James said. AP

Lippi, Klinsmann resign

Champion coach cites scandal; German burned out

ROME—ITALY COACH Marcello Lippi resigned Wednesday, three days after guiding the Azzurri to their fourth World Cup title.

The resignation came as the heels of German coach Juergen Klinsmann's decision not to extend his contract with the national team.

Despite widespread calls for him to stay, Lippi suggested weeks ago that he would resign. He broke he said his son, Davide, were attacked personally in the corruption scandal tainting the domestic game.

"At the end of an extraordinary professional and human experience, experienced as the head of an exceptional group of players, I believe my role is over as the guide of the Italian national team," Lippi said in a statement.

While he is not under investigation, Lippi was questioned by prosecutors before the World Cup about alleged pressure he exerted to select certain players for Italy's national team. Inside Lippi is under investigation for his work as player agency GEA World.

Italian soccer federation vice president Innocenzo Mazzi said Lippi had told him during the round-of-16 stage that he intended to quit regardless of his team's performances.

In a statement, Abete praised Lippi for his "extraordinary professionalism and his ability leading the team."

In Frankfurt, Germany, Klinsmann stepped down and handed the reins of the national squad to Joachim Loew.

Klinsmann told reporters he was leaving to spend more time with his California-based family.

"I feel burned out," said Klinsmann, adding that he would take a six-month recuperation. Loew, 46, had been Klinsmann's assistant for the past two years.

"I regret his decision, but we have to accept it," Uechard Mayer Nevfeldt, co-president of the German soccer federation said.

Earlier the reason revelation Bild newspaper said the Sueddeutsche Zeitung reported in their Wednesday editions that Klinsmann will not extend his contract, which ended with the World Cup.

Klinsmann's representatives were to suspend negotiations by finishing third, after losing to eventual champion Italy 2-0 in the semifinals. AP

A MUNDED: out Juergen Klinsmann will go on a six-month vacation.

Bad why!

JUAN SEBASTIEN 37 GERMANY coded, indicating news of his scores today, a quick Lampard response to ring, that the third-placed coach backed out saying he feels 'burned out.' Reuters, though finds no possible reasons for the decision: 1. Klinsmann was always unpredictable and unconventional during his playing career — loved to score against expectations he scored from two years and left some stats, the Interfaces historic after just one season to move on; 2. He is done to his family and whatever his anonymous Steve Goldstein; 3. The DFB officials locked with Klinsmann during the two years in charge, disobeying his directions, sleeping external staff requests and rising some mistakes portrayed he supposed; 4. Klinsmann faced constant second-guessing and criticism of the German team from and media from newspapers; 5. He knows it will be hard to duplicate the success he has had in taking Germany to the World Cup semifinals and; 6. Klinsmann does not need the money. Reuters

Giants rout Bulls, take 3-1 series lead

Picture on page A31

Rain a center away from the arc with a second left before the break, as the Giants made 8-16-24 at the half.

Yap scored in 23 points, including eight straight numbers when the Bulls guided within 85-73 in the fourth, while Pingris had 16 points and 13 rebounds, nine of them offensive boards.

"We'll definitely go for it next game," said Cruz guide. "The team's set is to always think that it would be the last game that we'll be playing."

Limpot, who has yet to earn a championship title to his 15-year career, posted a season-high 19 points while Regis Yap added 12.

Game 1-3, the Bulls will have to pull off a repeat only one team in Regis history has achieved.

Giants came back from a 1-3 deficit in their all-seven series to stun Shell and capture the 1992 First Conference crown.

But it will take a week before the Bulls could do any thing to redeem themselves. The Finals takes a one-week respite and continues on July 19.

The scores

PUREFOODS 98—Yap 4, 21, Limpot 15, Pingris 10, Ong 0, 12, Ver 6, Arquiza 0, Evangelista 4, Arnaiz 1, Santillo 0, Simon 0, Sanchez 0, Lenard 0.

RED BULL 89—Villanueva 25, Flores 12, Fortuna 10, Fermano 0, Reyes 8, Tugade 2, Aquino 1, Mallari 2, Hidalgo 12, Regis 8, Cruz 8.

Quarters: 20-12, 40-34, 63-62, 98-89.

Mountains beckon Tour riders, could unveil Lance successor

SAN FRANCISCO—HOME FOR THE FIRST TIME since 2005, Tour de France riders were set Saturday into the Pyrenees for their first encounter with the high mountains.

The steep, long, hard climbs should help separate out four contenders to succeed seven-time winner Lance Armstrong. Basso thinks who can't make the podium in Paris will be a little shorty to a sure devoid of any standout favorite so far.

The spotlight will move away from quite speculation like Oscar Freire, winner of Tuesday's parasite flat stage since Cadel Evans and riders eyeing the overall title, who need to get over the passing we'll if they are to win in Paris on July 23, will move to the fore.

Freire, a three-time former world champion, flashed past current world champion Tom Boonen and held off a late-surging Robbie McEwen of Australia to win the eighth in a grueling stage Tuesday at four to southwest France. The 1663-kilometer (1030-mile) ride started in Bordeaux.

The win was the Spaniard's second of the Tour—consolation for missing the expected birth of his first child a fortnight ago.

"It's better to be here winning, while not being at home than being here losing," he said.

Contenders for the overall title did what they usually always do in the stages—stay safely out of the spotlight's way. The jury between race leader Serhiy Honchar of Ukraine and next best overall Floyd Landis of the United States remained unchanged at 1 minute.

American Levi Leipheimer's had Tour got worse. He suffered a tire problem in the final 10 kilometers (six miles). He needs to add to the large deficit he built up in the first long time trial last weekend. He is now 4:43 behind Honchar, which would take him out of the title race.

Landis said riding continuously in the mountains would be key.

"All of the contenders who go on the potentially disastrous if you have a bad day," he said.

That moment came at a news conference Monday when he announced that he is racing with a painful arthritic hip that will need to be replaced after the three-week Tour, clouding his long-term career prospects. AP

WORLD RECORD

Liu Xiang (front) of China sets a world record past Dominique Arnold of the US in the men's 110-meter race at the IAAF Super Grand Prix athletics meeting in Lausanne. Inset shows the official time of Liu's record, 12.88 seconds, beating the old mark of 12.91. AFP/EPA

Maroons target 2-0 start vs Bulldogs; Tigers take on Falcons

GAME 1 TODAY (Ateneo de Field, Loyola Heights)

3 p.m.—UP vs FEU (Men)

4 p.m.—Ateneo vs DLSU (Men)

SEEKING AFTER WINNING FIRST OPENing game in the UAAP men's basketball tournaments, returning University of the Philippines coach Joe Lipa certainly looked proud.

Playing beyond expectations, Lipa's UP Maroons hardly seemed like a team with nine new faces.

"[The rookies are] confident because I know they're big winners and they're ably supported by the veterans," said Lipa as his young squad readies a 2-0 bout at 2 p.m. today at the Royal Memorial Coliseum.

The Maroons romped with a 94-92 triumph over the San Tomas Tigers, who will get for their first win versus the Adamson Falcons at 4 p.m.

Veteran playmaker Marvin Cruz linked out the Maroons by burying a short jumper with only three-tenths of a second remaining.

But not many expected the Maroons to get a quick boost from freshmen Migs delos and Martin Reyes, the two recruits from 2005 UAAP Juniors champion De La Salle Zobel.

The 5-foot-11 Jo Ada fired 18 of his 20 points from beyond the arc, including two clutch triples in the final two minutes.

Reyes also proved to be a deadly shooter, as the 6-foot-1 swingman scored all of his 12 points from the three-point line.

While the Maroons' campaign looks promising, the UST Tigers just faced a big blow to their bid.

Warren guard Arnel Mariano suffered a pulled hamstring and would be sidelined for the Tigers' next few games.

But rookie coach Pido Jarencio said his deep bench could easily make up for the absence of one of his most top scorers.

"If someone comes in or someone leaves, we're okay," said Jarencio. "We're not worried. We're always thinking positive."

Jarencio added his Tigers failed to display their potential in their first loss versus the Maroons.

"That wasn't our game," said Jarencio. "My team out of focus. Maybe because this is a new team in terms of system. We still need to settle down." Jaremico M. Pitoy

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ENTERTAINMENT

Julie Bonnin G. Velarde

DOLPHY arrives for the story conference on Monday

TWO IN WAYE. Married Today Boots" Natasha and the late FPJ's true today

Swanie joins the Puruntongs

Two queens and a king should a hit series make, but the director is on pins and needles

By Raymond Sun Diego Jr.

THE PURUNTONGS are back, he said, and he didn't mean those razzy shorts made famous by Dolphy on "John & Marsha."

It was 48 hours before the first taping day for the new ABS-CBN sitcom, "John En Marsha," and veteran TV director Joey De Leon was on pins and needles.

"I'm very nervous," De Leon told reporters Monday at a presscon at Studio 1 of the Kapamilya network in Quezon City.

And well he should be, since the cast is led by Comedy King Dolphy and movie queens Susan Roces and Marisol Sothern.

"It will be my first time to direct all three," said De Leon, obviously daunted by the "starring group."

Moreover, "John En Marsha" is a spinoff from the country's longest-running (1972-1990) and beloved comedy classic, "John & Marsha."

Dolphy and the late Nida Blanca had portrayed John and Marsha Perenteng, with Manilyn as daughter Shirley and Bella Quizon as son Dolly.

De Leon acknowledged "a certain amount of pressure," that they're not about to recreate the legend of "John & Marsha," he said. "This is a different show."

Will Dolphy, who will now play a widower, still wear his iconic boxer shorts?

"Maybe, but they're now brand-ed—Under Fashion," De Leon joked.

"John En Marsha" is line-produced by EB Entertainment, owned by Eddie Bonnevie, whose family's stories EB 0 around the original "John & Marsha."

De Leon pointed out that Susan's character, Encarnacion or "Ina" in the title, was part of the story from the start. So rumors that "when we were casting this role, we threw somersaults of excitement, but

(CONTINUED ON A2-3)

'Sanitizing' films against US laws

SALT LAKE CITY—SANITIZING movies on DVD or VHS tape violates federal copyright laws and several companies that scrub films' content can ask their customers to Hollywood studios, an appeals judge ruled.

Editing movies to delete objectionable language, sex and violence is an "illegitimate business" that hurts Hollywood studios and directors who own the movie rights, said US District Judge Richard J. Mauch in a decision released Thursday in Denver.

"Their (studios and directors') objectives ... are to enjoy the (infringement) because of its irreparable injury to the creative artistic expression in the copyrighted movies," the judge wrote. "There is a public interest in preventing such practices."

Mauch ordered the companies named in the suit, including CleanFlicks, Play It Clean Video and CleanFilms, to stop "producing, manufacturing, creating" and renting edited movies. The businesses also must turn over their inventory to the movie studios within five days of the ruling.

Disappointed

"We're disappointed," CleanFlicks chief executive Ray Lines said. "This is a typical case of David vs Goliath. We're going to continue to fight."

CleanFlicks produces and distributes sanitized copies of Hollywood films on DVD by burning edited versions of movies onto blank discs. The scrubbed films are sold over the Internet and to video stores.

As many as 50 stores nationwide—about half of them in Utah—purchase movies from CleanFlicks, Lines said. It is unclear how the ruling may affect those stores.

The controversy began in 1998 when the owners of Jeanine Family Video began deleting scenes from "Titanic" that showed a naked Kate Winslet.

The scrubbing caused an uproar in Hollywood, resulting in several lawsuits and countersuits.

Directors say feel vindicated by the ruling, said Michael Apted, president of the Director's Guild of America.

"Audiences can now be assured that the films they buy or rent are the vision of the filmmakers," he said.

AP

CLOCKWISE from right: JD Fortune, Kirk Pengilly, Tim Farris, Jon Farris, Andrew Farris and Garry Beers

JD Fortune & INXS set Big Dome show

JDEE, WITH SHAGGY NEW LEAD SINGER JD Fortune, will perform in the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City on Aug. 15.

This gig is the music band's first in the country and is part of "JDEE Switch Tour." Manila is one of the stops in the world promo tour for the album of the same title.

It is the band's first tour with JD, who won the hotly-watched last year via "Rock Star: INXS," a hit TV reality series conducted to replace Michael Hutchence, who died in 1997.

Judges

The band members—Andrew Farris (guitar), keyboardist, Tim Farris' dead guitar's, Jon Farris (drums), Garry Beers (bass) and Kirk Pengilly (saxophone, guitar)—served as judges on the show.

INXS (pronounced "in excess") came to musical scene in Sydney, Australia, where it was formed in 1977 under the name The Dingo Brothers. It became famous as INXS two years later. Throughout the 1980s and into the '90s, the band was a major force in Australian popular music, leading the way to international recognition and popularity for other Aussie groups.

For tickets—priced at P4,500, P3,500, P2,500, P1,500 and P000—call 911-5555.

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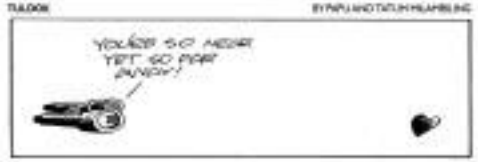

BEN — By DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

3	2	7				9		1
				9				8
5								2
			3		8			
	1						8	
			7		2			
8								3
4				5				
1		3				5	2	9

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2	9	3	5	1	9	4	7	8
4	1	9	6	7	8	3	5	2
3	7	8	9	2	1	6	4	9
9	2	1	9	8	4	7	5	3
8	9	4	6	5	7	2	1	3
1	5	2	4	6	8	9	3	7
9	6	7	1	3	2	5	8	6
6	3	8	7	9	5	1	2	4

DIFFICULTY ★★★

DEJUON

Swanie joins Pidol

when Daiten's name cropped up, we all got excited. Indeed, why not aim for the moon?"

ABS-CBN and GMA then initiated talks with Swanie, through her representative De Leon Gerrero.

"The first thing she asked for was the script," De Leon said. "With Swanie, we didn't have one ready, so I sent my sequence treatment." A few days later, Swanie sent word that she was interested. "This all happened in a matter of days," said De Leon.

Questions

"She liked the role," Guevarra confirmed with Inquirer.

Then, Swanie asked for a formal meeting with De Leon and company. "We had dinner with her," he recalled. "She asked many questions."

He said he assured Swanie—Encanto is about his chicken—that the screenplay was not an updated version of Jokes Andilemore starring mother-in-law Stella Delilah, immortalized by comic Dely Magpayo.

"I explained to her that her character is different—something to look forward to," De Leon said.

"Character grade-A Mark Tinsulad is cast as Swanie's boyfriend, Randolph, an Delphy's youngest son Jimmy.

Prior to a rumored talent fee dispute that convinced the 1 Million movie queen?

De Leon was non-committal. "I'm in, so[illegible] only to the creative aspect."

Reunion

Guevarra, when asked, laughed[illegible]y and said, "I don't know ... Swanie told she's looking forward to working with Delphy again. One of her first big movies, Nokangpoo Love' (1976) also starred Delphy."

De Leon revealed that, for him, working with the Comedy King is a Dream come true.

Delphy's old sitcom, "Mama Mong da Mine" on ABS-CBN had run directly against the hit Swanie drove directed by Bo Love, "Daddy Si Do Ito," on GMA 7.

Does this mean that Swanie Vs Shirley will go head-to-head with "Daddy"?

De Leon declined: "I purposefully requested that we avoid that. I'm not affiliated with any network. It's just that my two shows ("Tal Bulaga" and "Daddy") are now aired by GMA 7. In the past, I did 'Eat' [on 5(6)th 7] at the same time as 'The Dance Classics Show' [on ABS-CBN], do a few hours; I can always go network-hopping."

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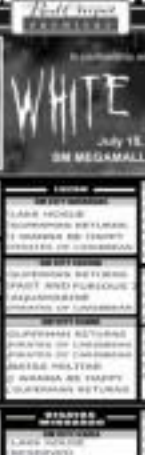

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Creative casting enhances 'Happy' film's prospects

JOEY REYES' "I WANNA BE HAPPY" HAS several good things going for it, not the least of which is creative casting. In fact, the production is good example for how casting can enhance a movie's appeal to viewers.

As we see it, the film is "family-friendly" because its "trans-generational" casting makes it easier for different age groups to relate to it.

While the movie is about the breakup of the 30-year old marriage of the characters played by Gloria Romero and Eddie Garcia, younger viewers may also empathize with its plot and characters because it includes the effect of the central conflict on the couple's children and grandchildren.

The couple's offspring are played by Cherry Pie Picache, Joey Marquez and Diana Zubiri. They vote out to be an engagingly varied trio, with Cherry Pie taking care of the domestics, Joey playing a "TV" personality bursting to a little sizzle for good measure.

Hearing Cherry Pie and Diana's respective partners are Christian Vazquez and Alfred Vargas. The grandchildren are portrayed by Francisco Stephen, Aaron Rhodes, Shen Ignacio, Alexis Diaz, Jason Abalos and Shekinah Strikland.

An added comedic zing, Lou Veloso plays Eddie's candy-loving, Rosanna Roces comes on sexy and hooky at the GRO who shares Gilda's bed for a while, and Marissa Delgado elicits more laughs as their ex-bosses busily.

This infusion of comedic performances energizes the production in a special way, and so remains the theme of the belly laughs that do light-hearted scenes generates.

Eddie and Gloria aren't slackers in the comedy department, either, and they work well with the movie's supporting comedians to generate some more over-the-top moments that provide a deft counterpoint to the serious scenes.

In this regard, Joey Reanos and Marissa come on strongest. It's interesting to note the victory in their acting styles: Joey plays it precisely and more refreshing, Marissa is all out kook, while Rosanna banks on "sexational," mid-mid humor.

Which is not to say that the movie doesn't have its less guilty and more substantial moments—but, after all is said and done, it's the movie's "Happy" factor that holds sway.

The film's many openings seem to come on so strongly that the sinders playing the grandchildren serve to relatively dwindle and relentless performances.

But they still serve a purpose, because they expand the repercussions of the central conflict, and would-be viewers can't help but be moved by the film's three hits, love, marriage and fidelity.

Feedback

From Neal R. Montiel of Marikina City: "I enjoy your challenge to speak up as a viewer whose voice should be heard by the TV people and would-be viewers. Here are the reasons for the TV networks' existence.

"I agree with another one of your readers who complained that there is too much overloading of commercials in top-rating TV programs today.

"If you are unhappy, you can count from 11 to 14 minutes of ads being aired per commercial gap, exclusive of program plugs. (To be concluded)

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FEEDBACK
Negligent producer
From Richard Mark Soriano <sino@pmail.com>:
Thank you for your review of the Manhattan Transfer concert review and for publishing my letter/rejoinder as an internet writer. I'd like to clarify your statements regarding the uneven sound quality during the show.
It is unfortunate that while the sound was perfect during the Manhattan Transfer's portion, the penultimate dilettante names that Ted Failon and myself could get the same sound quality during ours. This practice should be rectified for the sake of local artists who will open foreign acts in the future.
Also, during my last song, a female voice kept interrupting—obviously in reverse failure, but the theater was put on reliable phone notes in the audience.
It was clearly negligent on the part of the technician on board and the production team, and not the [fault] of the Big Dome management. I have relayed this sentiment to the producers, who should take responsibility.

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Talk about comments that make jaws drop

DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE, Bert de Leon, who will direct ABS-CBN's forthcoming comedy series "Iskul bus Monday" had one thing to say about rival movies GMA 7's top comedy show, which he is also currently directing: "Nothing can beat Tat Bulaga."

Japan-phenomenon! Jann dropped.

We say, Dr. Leon, has earned his stripes; he can say whatever he wants.

Not old

Are we saying he's old? Of course not.

In the words of a stunned Sharon Cuneta: "Hirek, may un do-mampo ka pala (here you signed a pact with the devil)? You look so young!"

Burt is 59.

RUSHES

Sige, 'Day

Marites Flores—GMA 7's senior VP for News & Public Affairs—is remiss in exchange with Annabelle Rama, who was upset about the media's reporting on her (Rama's) family's tax problems.

"I said I understand how she felt, but I also asked her to understand where we were coming from as journalists."

Ramon reply, according to Flores, was short, sweet and multi: "Sige, 'Day."

Okay, Pido!

Dennis Padilla on his Xin Xin Dancetrak costume: "It's so Nik, so Madonna. Dugo't lahyanes with mangga-kung-anggo!"

How does Pidol feel about this?

DJ's confiding cries!: "Mry billboard ako sa Edsa, ha!"

Ligaya's next project

Ligaya Lubrega may let her next "project" is to see that her little grandchild Nic—Lyzi Alcobendas—gets her first years of schooling in the Philippines. The first was to have her dedicated here, then christened here (last Sunday). Even just a few years of basic Catholic education would complete a solid character foundation, as far as this title is concerned.

OUR vote for Best Male Performer in a Female Role on GMA 7's "Fantastic 52" anniversary show on Sunday goes to Ramon de Leon. KIDLAT TEJADA

WHO IS Ramon Cleon saying snapshots of? Find out on Friday, in Star's Living. KIDLAT TEJADA

Jolie's next

Speaking of projects (and characters fumbling), Angelina Jolie's next a re-starring role as a tiger in the upcoming kiddie movie "Kung Fu Panda."

Counting Dreamworks, Hasanes reports that the actress, who just gave birth to her love child with actor Brad Pitt, will supply the voice of Tigress, a martial-arts master who helps train the title character, Po the Panda, played by Jack Black, in the ways of kung fu. The animated comedy hits theaters in May 2008.

ANGELINA Jolie

Can't wait

MILAN, Italy—Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards said Monday he has recovered completely from a head injury suffered in a fall.

"I can't wait to get back on the stage," Richards, 62, said in his first statement since he fell from a tree April 27 while vacationing in Fiji, leaving the band to postpone a European tour.

Richards also confirmed his role in the third installment of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series, saying he'd be filming for a week or so in September. Richards is to have a cameo role as the father of the Sam Ivory Captain Jack Sparrow, played by Johnny Depp.

"Now I know why Depp paid for all those lunches," Richards deadpanned. AP

KEITH Richards

Gay-porn past

SANTA MONICA, California—In November 2003, Michael Jackson was oblivious to the fact that the man he hired to produce a charity recording to benefit victims of the Sept. 11 terror attacks had been a producer of gay pornographic movies, the singer's former lawyers testified.

Zia Modabber said he broke the news to Jackson about Ehsan Schahbel's background and met with the pop star in the middle of the night to show him a video of Schahbel dancing in gay porn scenes.

Schahbel claims the pop star still owes him $1.6 million. AP

MICHAEL Jackson

'Pirates' still fun but it's too long

By Oliver M. Palumbark
Contributor

"PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: Dead Man's Chest," like its blockbuster predecessor "Curse of the Black Pearl," is generally entertaining, but it's too long.

REVIEW

We are voices hoarsely combat sequences and prolonged jokes that tend to meander and fill gaps between big but hasty character moments. But the story itself is much worth the time movie, too, which, except for Johnny Depp's brilliant eyeliny pirate Jack Sparrow, is a by-the-numbers popcorn flick.

Self-contained

There's a general feeling of fun, exclusively, but the introduction leave parents fleeting, as one would be hard pressed to remember the details of the first film's key moments, epiphanies and so on.

This sequel doesn't really give a lengthy recap of the past, but it's still reminded enough to be understood by those who missed the first movie. The three characters—Jack, Elizabeth (Keira Knightley), and Will Grbacks Bloom)—are reunited in a series of sea-faring adventures that serves to begin many tales in a quick and endless troubles. In this installment, opposition comes in the form of monster pirates led by the octopus-faced Davy Jones (Bill Nighy) and his giant "sweeper," the Kraken. Will, unfortunately, discovers his long-lost dad (Stellan Skarsgard) among Jones' crewed crew James Elizabeth, meanwhile, does pretty standard action heroine stuff, but becomes integral to Jack's transformations from amoral adventurer to hero later on.

"Dead Man's Chest" is once again directed by Gore Verbinski, who, despite his apparent liking the decomposition, does know to stage

ENTERTAINMENT

Till eternity, till maternity?

MARK HERRAS AND JENNYLYN MERCADO rekindle their "star-ted love" in Regal Entertainment's "Eternity." Even if they have split up as lovers, their special bond is timeless.

"No matter where life takes me, Art will always have a special place in my heart," Mark says.

Will it be Jean Jean to eternity or Jean Jean to maternity for the restless pair?

Say? What kind of girl will "Jean" him? "A girl who's exactly like me," he replies.

On-screen chemistry

Also featured in "Eternity" is the love team of Jen Odiado and Dingdong Dantes. They would have made a beautiful couple off-screen.

"Our Jean team wants; why not a big getting entangled?" asks Jen, who's happy with her Q-based boyfriend. "The long distance setup is tough," she says, "but it makes us value each other more."

Payback time

Mark Lapid says he put up his own MTL films, whose initial offering is "Baler: Militar," to give something back to those he...

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

Dismissed

Get a text from my ex-virgin Adana Lopez-Mon-

tellibano: "Our unit-ial case of physical injuries against Jake Ejercito; hope born filed in court. All her cases against me and Kitapp Singsuano have been dismissed."

Comic candors

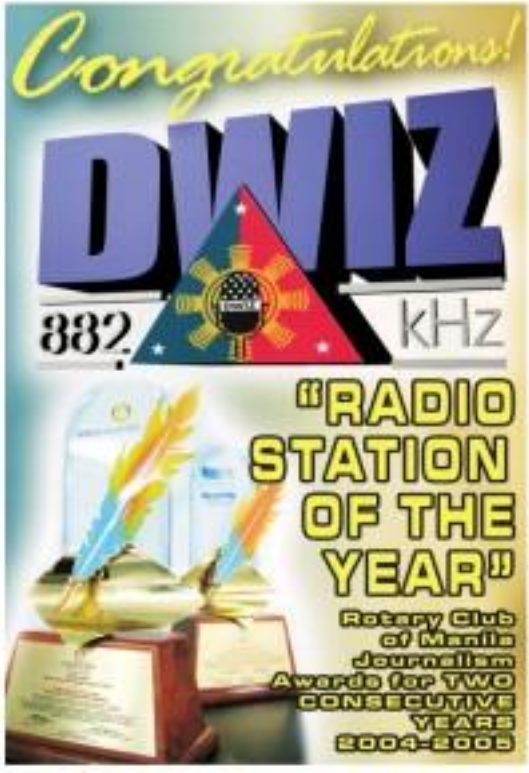
Catch Jenzo Gibbs and Khalyx Guevarra in "Charlie's Angels Chaperone" at 2 block Greenhills tomorrow. Will Daddy's be able to resist Jenzo's deadly charms?

Hilarious

I thoroughly enjoyed Judes Filmz' "I Wanna Be Happy" flick starring Ian and Gloria Romero reminded me of Joe 4 Nickelson and Harrell Sawyer with their impeccable acting.

Flimsy excuses

Somebody close to Jeremy Marquez called me up about my item on Jennylyn Mercado in my previous column. "Why is she denying that she keeps visiting Jeremy? All her flimsy excuses only prove that she's hiding something."



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US firm Mirant to sell RP unit

ONLINE BROKER COLtechVentures.com stood to shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange even as the firm's an offer price of P1.36 a share, it rose 23.5 percent to close at P1.68. At the ceremonial ringing of the bell to start the day's trading at the Makiba trading floor are (from left): Citiseclonline president Conrado Baes and chair Eduard K. Lee; PSE president Francis Lim, SEC Commissioner Ma. Juanita Cuevas and Citiseclonline vice chair Alexander Yu. [See story on Page B4.]

Value of power facilities placed at $3B

By Abigail L. Ho and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ATLANTA-BASED MIRANT CORP. HAS DECIDED to sell its Philippine subsidiary Mirant Philippines Corp., the country's biggest and highly profitable independent power producer.

The American power firm will also be selling its Caribbean business unit as part of plans to focus on its home business as well as to enhance shareholder value following its emergence from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last January.

"The planned sales will result in these businesses being reported as 'discontinued operations' beginning in the third quarter of 2006. The sales are expected to close by mid-2007," the company said in a statement.

"As Mirant generates cash from these sales, it plans to continue returning cash to its shareholders while maintaining the value of its net operating loss carryforwards," it added.

Mirant Philippines owns and operates the 1,200-megawatt (MW) Sual and the 735-MW Pagbilao coal-fired power plants in Pangasinan and Quezon, respectively.

It also holds a 20 percent stake in the 1,300-MW Ilijan gas-fired power plant in Batangas.

Its net ownership interest in these three generating facilities come up to 1,280 MW.

A sale of Mirant's plants in the Philippines—which accounts for nearly half of Mirant's overall cash flow—would be the last major addition of power assets by a US utility in the region.

The Philippine assets, estimated by some with an enterprise value of nearly $3 billion, is set to generate strong investor interest because of the lucrative long-term power purchase agreements it holds, banking sources said.

Even before Mirant made its decision on the sale, investment banks have started touting the

MIRANT, B2

Policy banning port monopoly reviewed; ICTSI eyes N. Harbor

By Dazon L. Lucas

THE COUNTRY'S PRIMIERE SEAPORT FOR international and domestic shipping may soon be managed by a single firm after port regulators announced a major review of a policy meant to prevent a port monopoly.

If current trends continue, both the Manila North and South Harbors may end up being operated by International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI), the country's largest private port operator.

In a briefing the other day, Philippine Ports Authority general manager Oscar M. Sevilla disclosed that his agency submitted last week its recommendation to the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) that the policy against a single terminal operator be lifted.

He said the business environment that prompted regulators to put in place anti-monopoly rules no longer existed today.

"Normally the reasons that existed before, like why the single operator was not tenable at that time, now because there was no competition," he said. "Today, we have that [competition] already."

He said the operations of May 15 were in direct contradiction with the operations of the North Harbor, which is dedicated to domestic passen-

PNA, B2

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■ DTI slaps duty on detergent ingredient /B6

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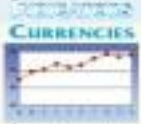

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STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower

(Current market reports on Page B2)

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 11.54 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,931.86, after rising 0.2 percent Tuesday.

"Coming from a low of 2,003.06 on June 28, we've come up by close to 6 percent. So given that, the market was bound to consoli-

STOCKS, B4

Foreign investors seen focusing on economic gains

By Doris C. Dumlao

OFFSHORE INVESTORS ARE starting to focus on the country's economic gains while shrugging off sporadic political noises, the country's investor relations officer said.

Antonio Picarra, executive director for investor relations at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, said investors who were distracted by remarks by politicians in the country were taking a closer look at the country's bright potentials.

"They know that the country's annual investments banks normally haven't changed despite high oil prices and global investor uncertainties. They are watching to delink political noise from good fundamentals," he said in an interview.

From year to date, the peso has retained back to being a net gainer against the dollar on expectations that the US Federal Reserve's new pose monetary tightening efforts would soon end.

Picarra said it would be crucial for the government's fiscal managers to sustain recent progress in view of the challenges brought out by the country's election year.

If the government were to treat the P185-billion budget deficit cap, he said that would be a factor that could prompt global rating agencies to raise their credit rating outlook on the country.

"There are other factors like the elections next year and they will have an to what extent that will affect the fiscal momentum," Picarra said.

The bad trade would be for the government to be able to follow up fiscal gains with further reforms such as the fiscal incentives rationalization program and the EVAT, he said.

"If all these work, that will be favorable to the fiscal institutions and that could offset some of the risks associated with an election year," Picarra said.

He said the market was closely watching whether the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the government's main revenue collection agency, could deliver on its targets.

"We need another six months of favorable fiscal performance," he said.

A report from US-based Moody's Investors Service is seen to rate the Philippine this December, but said that from London-based Fitch Ratings, in January or February.

An International Monetary Fund team has urged the Philippines to sustain fiscal gains by pursuing more high-quality reforms and avoiding "pro-cyclical" policies or heavy spending during the election years.

It proposed that the government enhance the revenue system even after the value-added tax reform by broadening the tax base, including a meaningful rationalization of income tax incentives.

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BREAKTIME

Contardo N. Bansil III

AN EXECUTIVE FROM THE LOPEZ GROUP reacted on an item column regarding the Lopez group's recent media hits for its claim of ownership of Equitable PCIBank.

The group held a press conference, including television appearance on ANC news channel, owned by the country's biggest network ABS-CBN, in turn controlled by the Lopez group.

Items appearing in the media hits were the patriarchs of the group, namely Manolo Lopez (Meralco) and Oscar Lopez (Energy Holdings and Benpres).

Following is the letter from Cesar Gomez, on couple, exec, a true grandson of First Philippine Holdings Corp. for corporate communications:

"Your June 23 column contained factual errors as follows:

"1) First Philippine Holdings Corp. (FPHC) filed a complaint in intervention in Civil Case No. 35 before the Sandiganbayan on Dec. 28, 1986, and not 'after 20 years since the family came back from exile in the United States.'

"It started in the complaint in intervention, FPHC asserts that ownership of said shares could not have been lawfully transferred because FPHC's (public) money were then in exile, their business illegally taken over through the use and abuse of power, pressure, threats and intimidation during the Marcos regime.

"In 1998, the Supreme Court upheld the right of FPHC to intervene in the proceedings, thus proceedings on the PCIBank shares held by Trans Middle East (Phils.) Equities Inc. (TMEEI), since there was no final decision rendered on ownership.

"When recent news items included reports that in October 2005, Mr. Marcos surrendered to Malacañang about P 120 million from dividends and profit sharing of the shares in question, which shares were held in escrow pursuant to an order of the Sandiganbayan, FPHC caused the filing of an urgent motion before the Sandiganbayan to require GOCR to explain the reported release of dividends of the shares held in escrow and if indeed there was a withdrawal(s), to require the return of the dividends.

"It is a rare chance to buy in one shot an energy platform of 3,300-MW power plants established over three administrations in the power-hungry Philippine market," and Asian economists advises and Albay Rep. Joey Salceda.

The deep-pocketed Filipino buyers are expected to find stiff competition from overseas such as the JBG group, four Energy (TA-for joint ventures between Hong Kong's CLP Holdings Ltd. and Japan's Mitsubishi Corp.), Mitsubishi Corp., China Light and Power, Korea Electric Power, Tokyo Electric and Kyushu Electric.

Subsidy said the divestment of Mirant has sent a rush of excitement in the Philippine energy sector as the interested buyers are only assured Mirant's existing assets but were also keen to take advantage of new opportunities in the country.

Reacting to the announcement, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said it was "fast evolving unexpected, given the financial condition of Mirant Philippines' mother company in the US."

He said the government just had to ensure that the buyer or buyers of Mirant's assets would be qualified to perform its obligations to National Power Corp. with regard to the IPP contracts attached to the assets to be placed on the auction block.

"Government owns three operations in these plants to make profitable and bonus base income among countries. Higher-powered economic growth supported by rising wage, decent investments, democratic and investor wealth drove remains smart and will help sustain the profitability of these plants," Lotilla said in a separate statement yesterday.

He added that given Mirant Philippines' asset size, more "financially viable, arm investment" would likely come in on top of those interested in Sapuan assets. With reports from Reuters

US firm Mirant to sell RP unit

From page B1

portfolios from late last year to proceed to interested parties around Asia.

Mirant Philippines last year contributed $190 million to adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) or to parent firm.

Mirant's decision after getting wind of Mirant's plans to sell its assets in the Philippines, the top players in Philippine business—Metrobank's George Ty, the old rich Ayalas and Aboitizes, and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s Manuel V. Pangilinan—have expressed strong interest in what is being touted as the powerhouse deal of the century.

"It's a rare chance to buy in one shot an energy platform of 3,300-MW power plants established over three administrations in the

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You will benefit tremendously from this encounter with Dr. Rick Warren as his message will allow you to act. He will challenge us to reach further in life and make a difference in this world. His insight will bring new revelation and opportunity to us for the future.

Even our relationships will be empowered. There is a cost to growing but it will cost more not to grow! You will definitely leave the Forum changed, and with a new zeal in your soul, ready to impact your world. You have been blessed to be a blessing to others.

Dr. Warren's wife, Mr. KAY WARREN, Author, Speaker and Co-founder of SADDLEBACK CHURCH and wife of Pastor, will speak before MAP at 29 July 2006 Saturday, 12:00 Noon, Grand Ballroom, Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. He topic will be "HOW TO BE JOYFUL NO MATTER WHAT" (Political crises, Economic crisis, Family crisis, Personal crisis...).

I will attend the ( ) July 25 Dinner Forum ( ) July 26 Lunch Forum

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PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
PICPA Building, 368 Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City

NOTICE OF MEETING
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

To ALL PICPA Members:

In accordance with the provisions of Article XIII, Section 1 and 3 of the By-Laws of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, notice is hereby given that the Annual Membership Meeting will be on Friday, July 21, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Publications of Notice of Meeting
3. Certification as to Presence of Quorum
4. Reading and Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
6. Report of the President
7. Report of the Treasurer
8. New Business
9. Determination of the place of the next annual meeting
10. Adjournment

We urge all members to attend the Annual Membership Meeting. For members who cannot be present in person, please accomplish and return to us the general proxy form. The general proxy form can be downloaded from the PICPA website www.picpa.com.ph or can be obtained from the PICPA National and Chapter Offices.

Ismael F. de Jesus
National Secretary

High cement prices traced to cartels

By Norma W. Dominguez

A GROUP OF CEMENT MAKERS YESterday said prices of basic building materials like cement were high in certain areas of the country because of collusion among cartels dealers.

Emerson M. Ordoñez, president of the Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, said manufacturers have not increased their prices in the last few months and that they were in fact absorbing part of the increased costs incurred during that period.

But retail prices have gone up in some areas because a number of dealers have banded together to control the selling prices of cement.

He cited three areas in Bicol where cement was being sold at P195 for a 40-kilogram bag, much higher than the suggested price of P175.

He said Cemap had coordinated with the Department of Trade and Industry on the matter and their efforts had led to the arrest of four people.

"After the arrests, prices of cement settled at the suggested price, which indicates [collusion] among dealers to set prices," he added.

Cemap had been under fire due to what its critics say were abnormally high prices of materials such as cement at a time of excess production capacity.

Ordoñez said manufacturers late increased their prices by 5-9 percent in January-due partly to the rise in the value added tax.

Legend CEO bucks order of HK court

Boon questions validity of order in RP

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LTD. chief executive officer Khoo Boo Boon is not leaving his post without a fight.

"It is a director of a company in the Philippines. It's either an executive of a foreign entity [will be personally held criminally liable under Philippine laws]," Khoo told reporters on the sidelines of Citizen Online Corp.'s public listing at the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

Khoo was reacting to the order handed down by a Hong Kong court, which put the Hong Kong-based LRL under liquidation and directed nonlocal firm Messrs & Marsal to take over the company's management.

Khoo denied allegations that he had mismanaged the company to the point that it was no longer able to settle debts and remit revenues to the government.

Messrs & Marsal director Martin Tsjang-yee, who was tasked to take over the day-to-day operations of the company, successfully sued in a statement that the company was running the risk of having its operations downsized even further if no management changes were made.

"The business is not sustainable in its present structure. Without a cash infusion, the business won't survive. It has to be managed properly, marketed properly and [it has to have] good relations with [Sigrar Utilidades Amusement and Gaming Corp.] and [SBMA (Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority)]," Tsjangyee said.

LRL, the operator of the Legend Hotel and Casino in the former US military base, was placed under liquidation last June 9.

The appointment of a liquidator stirs heavy pressure that last November 3, 2004 by Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Inc., a creditor of LRL, to liquidate or sell the assets of LRL for its failure to pay its debts.

Morgan Stanley claimed in its petition before the Hong Kong court [the equivalent of the Philippines' Court of Appeals] that LRL owes it and another investment firm, Avenue Capital, roughly $120 million.

LRL owes another P565 million to Pagcor, which ordered LRL to close its casino operations two months ago over the unpaid bills. Lawyer Conrado Iter Jacinto, counsel for the Sigrar group, said chief justice Hong Kong law, the high court can place financially distressed companies under liquidation and appoint liquidators to rehabilitate ailing firms.

Trustee case on Monday when Khoo refused to recognize his successor. He was even driven the group of Robin Flynn, managing director of Messrs & Marsal, out of the hotel's lobby.

Flynn added that he had visited the Subic property on Monday but was blocked by Khoo from implementing management changes at the hotel and Subic properties as part of the liquidation proceedings.

He claimed Khoo had prevented his access to the Subic properties—including of Legends Suites, Grand Seagem Hotel and Legend Hotel, which houses the casino.

Camiguin: Tourism, 'lanzones' and windmills

Joji Bagaso-Bisen

I WAS ON THE ISLAND OF CAMIGUIN LAST week for the Sub-Regional Tourism Summit (SRT) Forum, which was attended by over 300 technical vocational schools administrators / owners and the key people in all the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (Tesda) offices in Mindanao.

Governor Pedro "Lolit" Romualdo, who is a great supporter of this sector, believed so much his presence during the closing ceremonies together with Tesda Deputy Director General Santiago Tabal.

The governor proudly spoke of this island paradise, which is only a 30-minute ferry ride from Balingoan, Misamis Oriental, Cagayan de Oro, Bislig, Surigao del Sur, Camiguin has been a major source of cheap power and energy. Also, windmills will be a great tourism attraction. I think this will soon come true because a tsunami-tolerant resort area in Camiguin last week to talk with the governor.

Camiguin is one of the kindomath of this island, and I was told that its sweetness was due to the combination of volcanic soil and weather in the area. It is a seasonal fruit. While other areas use technology, I wonder if it is possible to grow lanzones all throughout the year.

A total 170,519 tourist visited the island in 2005, of which 171,827 were local tourists, 1,162 foreign tourists and 381 balikbayans. Visitors from the United States, Japan and Switzerland comprised the bulk of the foreign tourists. Most of the local investments in the tourism sector were owned by locals who started for export.

The local government is now embarking on other tourist-oriented sources.

The development of the tourism sector will be led by the private sector and the government will just provide the infrastructure support. Attractive incentives will be given to investors and the cost of doing business in the island will be minimal. There will be very little

Governor Romualdo of Misamis Oriental, a province independent upon the issuance of R.A. No. 4668 on June 18, 1966. It is a pearl shaped island, which has an area of about 238.03 square kilometers.

It is the smallest province in Region 10 occupying 1.7 percent of the total land area of Northern Mindanao (1,483,891 hectares). The province is composed of five municipalities and 64 barangays. Of the 5 municipalities, Mambajao accounted for 37 percent of the total land area. Guinsiliban had the smallest share of 6 percent. Catarman, the capital, had the largest share of 23.5 percent followed by Mahinog, which is 14 percent.

The island province's economy continues to improve over the years as indicated by investments in its vital economic indicators.

Author is an advocate for Mindanao and chair of Joji Bagas Foundation. Email comments to jojibisen@yahoo.com.)

Online broker's share price up sharply on listing day

Lepanto to open copper mine in Benguet

AFTER SUSPENDING ITS COPPER OPERations for about five years, Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. is re-opening its copper mine in Mankayan, Benguet Province in view of the rising metal prices in the world market, Lepanto chair Felipe Yap said.

The gold-copper price had surged to a high of $1.4/pound in the international market this year, from a low of 70 cents in 2001. The low copper prices then made it difficult for the company to continue operating the copper mine in 2001.

Yap said Lepanto's copper mine would restart commercial operations by September.

Lepanto was incorporated in 1936. It used to operate an complex copper mine until 1997, when it shifted to gold bullion production through its Mirador Project in Benguet.

Lepanto operated a copper flotation plant from August 2000 to December 2001, when copper operations were suspended.

Lepanto sells its gold/bullion production to refiners Metalor and Swissen Ltd (Hong Kong). Its copper concentrates were sold through metals trading firms Trafigura Beheer and Concentrados Minerals and Metals, which are based in Switzerland and Canada, respectively. Elizabeth L. Sanchez

BancNet ties up with China's CUP

AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE CONSORtium BancNet Inc. seeks to draw more tourists from mainland China to the Philippines via its link-up with China Unionpay (CUP), the only payment gateway in emerging Asia's dollar economy.

In an interview, Angelito Villanueva, BancNet's chair and director of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., said the interconnection with CUP would boost tourism in the country by giving Chinese tourists access to BancNet ATMs.

BancNet started making available its ATMs to CUP cardholders in October last year. Soon, BancNet cardholders would also be able to do banking transactions using any CUP terminal in China, Villanueva said.

"It's a less expensive gateway with a fee of only about $1 (per transaction)," he said.

The China Bluestem gateway charges $2.50 (P130) per transaction.

CUP is the only switch by ATMs and point of sale terminals in China. It has 800 million cardholders, more than 80,000 ATMs and 600,000 POS terminals all over China.

BancNet, which is celebrating its 16th anniversary, has 4 million active cardholders.

"The use of ATMs is already moving toward maturity but the market is so big. There are only 12 million ATM cardholders out of a population of 85 million," Villanueva said. Bevin C. Franklin

Market sees promising growth prospects in company's business

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE ISSUE PRICE OF ONLINE BROKER COCitiesOnline.Com posted a sharp rise during its listing yesterday.

From its offer price of P1.36 per share, CitiesOnline or COL share price rose 23.5 percent to close at P1.68 per share, which was also its day high. Total volume traded yesterday was placed at 6.46 million shares.

CitiesOnline is the second company to be listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange this year after power producer First Generation Corp.

CitiesOnline president Gerardo Issa said the company raised P1.09.6 million from its initial public offering, which made available 118 million shares at P1.36 per share.

Local analysts said the growth prospects of the broker's line of business looked promising.

"Online brokering or trading may be a growth area if it reaches a critical mass and is cost effective," an analyst said.

Another analyst said CitiesOnline offered a steep discount to its offer price, luring the interest of market players.

CitiesOnline's share performance on its IPO day beat those of larger companies, including First Gen whose stock price ended weaker at P65.50 on its listing day.

The company is facing a breach of trademark rights suit, which was filed by American financial conglomerate Citigroup Inc. and lending unit Citibank N.A., with the Makati Regional Trial Court. The court will start hearing the case today.

In its complaint filed on June 30, Citigroup claimed that the use of the names hosting "citi" by CitiesOnline and Citiinvestline has constituted a breach of trademark rights seen to augmented "citi" marks, including "citibank," "citicard," "citicorp," "citidirect," "citigroup," "citiphone" and "citiservices."

"We are not taking his case very lightly. We are the second than one of the largest companies in the world are going after us. The possible downside here is a change in name. It is not huge. There is no risk of us closing down or not being able to serve our clients' requirements. We are confident that we will be able to keep our name," Issa said.

CitiesOnline will use the bulk of the IPO proceeds to support new products that it will launch in the next few months and to upgrade its online trading technology. CitiesOnline has grown its clients to 600 to date. Its average daily trades stood at P1M+ million in the first six months of this year, higher than P72.6 million in 2005.

Issa said the company has remained to profit this year and it hoped to remain profitable in the coming years.

CitiesOnline plans to offer credit lines to its clients and investors that can be used for trading under the so called "margin financing."

CitiesOnline chair Edward Lee said the group was also developing its online trading website for the Hong Kong and China markets through its wholly owned subsidiary CitiesOnline Hong Kong Ltd., a member of the Hong Kong Stock.

PETRON chair Nicasio Alcantara (right) hands over a check worth P111 million to Philippine National Oil Co. president and CEO Eduardo Melchor (left) while Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla looks on. The amount represents a dividend payment paid by Petron to PNOC, which holds 2.1 billion Petron shares or 40 percent of the oil firm.

Finance open to a P10-B cut in BIR '07 target

By Doris C. Dantao

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE said it was willing to slash by P10 billion the Bureau of Internal Revenue's (BIR) billion collection target for 2007 in favor to revenue adjustments to the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law.

Government sources privy to a recent meeting of the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee said the DOF was, however, not keen on changing the BIR's revenue target for 2006 amid collections in the first semester had come in.

The BIR had annually requested the DBCC to lower the revenue agency's 2007 collection target by P29 billion. It also want the rates collected on government securities to be reported separately since "the BIR should neither be penalized nor benefited from any shortfall of overperformance in the collection of the taxes on government securities."

The DOF, according to the sources, was amenable to a mere P19 billion cut. They said Finance officials recognized the need to scale down the agency's target for next year because the 2007 budget was based on the projected revenue collections of BIR for 2006, wherein P40 billion was projected to come from the aforementioned sources recently implemented.

For this year, Revenue Commissioner Jose Buting is seeking a correction in the enhanced VAT provisions. The DOF had projected additional revenue of P80 billion from the reformed VAT law.

However, sources said that as the 2-percentage-point increase in the VAT rate to 12 percent was implemented only starting February instead of January, the projected collection should be reduced to P75 billion.

But there was an error in splitting the BIR collection task between the BIR and the Bureau of Customs as the government used the 2004 data which showed more domestic oil production than imports, thus requiring a reallocation of collections from the BIR to the BOC.

St. Luke's unit to offer shares to doctors

ST. LUKE'S GLOBAL CITY MEDICAL ARTS Building Corp., owned largely by one of the country's largest hospitals, is planning to offer 15.36 billion worth of shares exclusively to its doctors to raise fresh funds to partly finance the construction of a P7.68-billion world-class hospital in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on a build-lease-transfer basis.

Under the scheme, St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) president Jose Ledesma said the St. Luke's medical group would remain a non-stock and non-profit corporation, clarifying that the shares issuance would not be a public offering.

The company's wholly-owned firm that owns the existing hospital in Quezon City is finance the built of the project cost.

The new hospital will have two towers—one of which is the proposed Medical Arts Building that will house 375 doctors' offices. The second tower is a 14-story hospital building for patients with 600 beds.

The proposed hospital will sit on a 1.6-hectare lot with a gross floor area of 324,000 square meters and will be one of the biggest hospitals in the metropolis in terms of total floor space.

Construction of the new hospital has yet to start after the SLMC Group awards the construction to interested bidders this month. Its commission the site, to lay the groundwork for the construction, has started early this year.

Ledesma said the new hospital was expected to generate 2,700 new jobs for non-medical staff. It will bring in about 1,000 doctors, partly from St. Luke's in Quezon City.

Even with the new hospital, St. Luke's will continue to operate its world-class hospital in Quezon City.

SLMC in Quezon City is touted as the country's largest hospital in its country in terms of medical equipment and technology, professional expertise, range of services, quality of patient care, medical research and customer service. Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PPA . . .

from page B1

per and cargo shipping. The more recently built Harbor Center is also a direct competitor.

Sevilla believed that North Harbor's operations should be the only one to allow Manila's major ports to run by a single entity, but insisted that the threat of monopoly no longer existed today.

"The fear of monopoly is gone," he said. "It is no longer applicable now."

Sevilla said that ICTSI has expressed interest in North Harbor's operations, adding that the firm's executive vice president, Edgardo Antonania, has expressed interest in the project, especially if it is found to be a viable business.

Officials of Harbor Center, Lorenzo Shipping Corp. and Asiaworld Container Lines have also met with the PPA chair to inquire about the status of privatization plans for the port, which Sevilla said might be completed "within the year."

Nedia's representative in the PPA board had indicated that it would take at least 30 days for the policy to be decided on.

As an additional condition, Sevilla said that casting up North Harbor's operations might not make business sense and could spoil its privatization.

"If you sell Manila North Harbor because of the volumes, it might not attract bidders," he said, adding that offering the port to its contents would give the winning bidder the right to develop the entire landing and give them the leeway to develop not only cargo facilities but even the terminal that may be used for tourism.

Stocks end lower

from page B1

date," said AB Capital Research investment analyst Erwin Bulilan.

Bulilan said he remained cautiously optimistic over the market's prospects, given several macroeconomic news, which showed inflation still at manageable levels and exports growing at double-digit rate.

Weighing heavily on the index, PLDT lost 0.8 percent or P1.50, to drop with the 1.5 percent loss by the company's American Depositary Receipts in New York Tuesday. The result also left on profit-taking after rising during the previous session on the company's announcement it has completed the acquisition of toll operator operation SPI Technologies.

Other stocks that weighed on the market were Bank of the Philippine Islands, off 2 percent at P48.50, and BDO Private, losing by 1.6 percent at P7.60.

Limiting the market's loss, Ayala land gained 2.1 percent at P12.20 on 13.66 million shares traded, making it the most active-ly traded stock.

Philex Mining 'A' and 'B' each rose 1.3 percent to close at P4 and P3.80, respectively on higher-would metal prices.

Decliners led gainers 27 to 26, while 14 stocks were unchanged. AP

BUSINESS

DTI slaps duty on detergent ingredient

Gov't move seen protecting local chemical industry

By Rosemal W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE and Industry yesterday said it was imposing a provisional safeguard duty on a key ingredient used in manufacturing detergents.

The move was prompted by its findings that the surge in imports of the static raw material used in manufacturing detergent had caused "serious injury" to local manufacturers.

Trade Secretary Peter D. Favila said an additional P14.13 would be charged for every kilogram of imported methanol grade sodium tripolyphosphate or STPP-TG.

Favila said the measure was to be effective "[60] days from the issuance of a relevant Customs Memorandum Order, which was published today.

"The findings of DTI's investigation showed that the surge in the importation of STPP-TG has caused a decline in the domestic industry's market share, production, capacity utilization, productivity, sales and profitability," he explained.

Favila said the provisional safeguard measure would serve as a temporary relief to local firms that claimed they were suffering from the influx of imports.

"We have set it at a level which we believe would be sufficient to prevent the industry from sustaining further injury that would be difficult to repair unless a provisional measure is taken now," he said.

He added that the DTI would immediately forward the records of the case to the Tariff Commission, which would conduct its own public hearing and formal investigation.

Favila said the DTI would decide whether to impose a final safeguard measure based on the Commission's findings.

"This action signifies the government's commitment to extend the appropriate safety nets to prevent the demise of local industries facing intense competition from increased imports," he said.

Also, Trade Undersecretary Jesusdin C. Magbayo said there would be no shortage of the chemical in the market even with the provisional safeguard measure.

"Our studies have shown that the effect of the provisional measure on the cost of detergents would be negligible and will not substantially affect prices of detergents," Magbayo said.

The domestic manufacturer has sufficient capacity to supply the requirements of downstream industries, she added.

Last April, the labor sector and advocacy group Ibon Foundation Inc. had filed a petition for a safeguard duty on STPP.

"Imposing an additional duty is just and fair, given the predatory behavior of the importers-exporters involved in the dumping of STPP from China into the domestic market and given the near comatose state of the domestic industry," the PIB-Labor said.

The group said imported STPP now accounts for 60 percent of the market, with shipments shooting up 140 percent a year from 2000.

"But STPP surge is truly sudden, massive and debilitating for the local producers," the group added.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Acquisition of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT OF TWO (447) RADIO COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

The Land Transportation Office, through Fund 101 (RTVC) intends to apply the sum of Two Million Nine Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Only Hundred Sixteen Pesos (P2,955,916.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payment for the procurement of two (447) radio communication equipment. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the items. The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, viz:

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is conducted in Open Attendance (predetermined) organizations with a local and international presence or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act (RA) 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only duly licensed Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, viz: The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall submitted to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine the completeness of the Bid's technical and financial requirements of the project. The LCB bid shall be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Pesos). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 19, 2006 at 1:30 P.M. at the LTO Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before July 28, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One Percent (1%)
2. Bank Guarantee	One and a half Percent (1 1/2%)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2 1/2%)
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred Percent (100%)

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on July 31, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at LTO Library, East Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who chooses to attend at the address below.

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at both at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Land Transportation Office
Atty. Jesus C. Principe, Chairman, BAC
East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 927-8011 - 4000/4001

Engr. Roberto V. Ong – Chairman, BAC Sub-Committee
Assistant Secretary, LTO, East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9288013 loc 4000

(Sgd.) ATTY. JOHNNY S. PESIGAN
BAC Chairman

Kraft to bring tariff dispute to Customs court

By Christine A. Gaylican

KRAFT FOODS CORP., ONE OF the world's largest food and beverage companies, is replicating the possibility of bringing its tariff dispute with the Bureau of Customs before the World Customs Organization.

"We are exploring other avenues with which to resolve the tariff issue," said Ted Cimfel, Kraft Foods Asia Pacific corporate and government affairs director, in an interview yesterday.

The Swiss-based WCO is composed of member-countries of the World Trade Organization and is tasked to ensure the free movement of goods across countries by harmonizing customs practices.

Cimfel said it was looking at this option even if its local unit, Kraft Foods Philippines, had already filed a petition with the Court of Tax Appeals.

The petition seeks to reverse the BoC order that said that imported raw cocoa beans were a staple commodity under the preferential tariff case of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"We would like to think that we were not targeted intentionally when the order was issued, because the primary intent at that time was to stop the prevalent smuggling of sugar. We however, seem to have been gotten caught in the net," Cimfel said.

"We did not change our product, it always has been determined to have a sugar content of more than 65 percent, but that does not necessarily mean that our products are all sugar. We incorporate or blend in other components in our products such as vitamins, flavorings and other fortifiers," he added.

Cimfel said that if Kraft loses its case, the company would have to pass on the added cost to its consumers in the Philippines.

"Increasing the tariff would be very detrimental to our business and to consumers," said Cimfel.

He said the company had not received any notice from the BoC, which earlier said it would allow Kraft to continue paying the low 3-percent duty on condition that it would post a bond equivalent to the 30-percent tax on its high-sugar cocoa beverages pending the resolution of the case by the CTA.

The BoC order was prompted by the local sugar sector, which has been urging government to stop allowing Kraft Foods from importing cocoa juices at such low tariffs.

"More than the industry, it is the national government that is placed at a great disadvantage. Where revenue should be flowing in terms of tariff, it is being curtailed," said Jose Maria Zabaleta, executive director of the Philippine Sugar Millers Association.

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WHAT'S INSIDE
- Long live the Queen! /C2
- 'Bulanglang' finds its place in a museum /C4

LIFESTYLE

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY ZEST • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

How to entertain the kids and what to feed them

PUPPET SHOW was just for kids—the adults enjoyed it, too!

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aquino

Kiddie party recipes, seafood with cilantro and crispy 'lechon kawali' from Reggie's kitchen

I HAVE TWINS AND WE ARE CELEBRATING their first birthday. Do you have any ideas for entertainment that is out of the ordinary? I don't like magicians or bubble shows. Can you please recommend? And do you have corn dog, burger, pizzaiola, and other children's party recipes that I can try out, too? Hopefully easy recipes... I hardly cook and it would be safe to say that this is the first time I am attempting cuisine.

CAMILA C.

My son Diego just recently celebrated his second birthday and I had a puppet show for him. It was so much fun (!!!) perfect for that age group. I chose Sesame Street, Barney and Friends! It ran for about 25 minutes. The puppets were nice, done, and not at all gaggable-looking! The puppet stage and the sound system they set up were not loud at all. I think it was well worth it! Call Hipe Ancilla at 8281170, 09173402737.

And since you are brave enough to try and cook for your party, here are some of my most simple children's party recipes. Happy birthday to your twins. And good luck on your first real attempt at cooking.

Delicious Corn Dog

2 c corn meal
2 c all-purpose flour
¼ c sugar
3 eggs
2 tsp baking powder
1½ c fresh milk

Combine ingredients in a bowl; mix well. Dip skewered hotdogs on batter and deep fry in hot oil.

Mini Pork Barbecue

½ kg pork, sliced thin
½ c condensed milk
2 tbsp sugar
2 tbsp garlic puree
2 tbsp soy sauce
2 tbsp hoisin sauce

Combine ingredients and marinate. Skewer meat pieces and grill.

Burgers

Ground beef—½ kg lean meat, ¼ kg beef fat
2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
¼ c grated onion
2 tsp garlic powder
2 tsp onion powder
2 tbsp cream
Salt
Pepper

Combine ingredients and form into patties. Grill.

Cheese Pimiento Sandwich Filling

2 c grated cheddar cheese
½ c roasted bell pepper, peeled and chopped
¼ c cream cheese
¼ c condensed milk
2 tbsp mayo
Salt and pepper to taste

Mix all the ingredients until well combined.

Chicken Sandwich Filling

2 c chicken breast, boiled and flaked
1 c mayonnaise
¼ c apples, chopped, squeezed with lemon juice
¼ c celery, chopped
salt, pepper, sugar to taste

I know that a lot of people dislike cilantro but I love it. Do you have recipes for cilantro, other than using it just for garnish? Preferably seafood.

MRS. M. REYES

Sure do, Mrs. Reyes! Remember, cilantro is yummy and versatile! Not kinaray!

Cilantro Shrimp

1½ tbsp olive oil
¼ c butter
¼ c garlic
½ kg tomatoes, chopped
1 thsp chili or kalyan, to taste
¼ c calamansi juice, fresh or water
1 kg shrimps, peeled, de-veined, tails left intact
2 c cilantro
1 tbsp honey

Heat oil and butter. Sauté garlic and tomatoes. Cook tomatoes until they are soft. Add chilies and wine and let simmer for three more minutes. Add shrimps. Add rest of the ingredients. Simmer to taste.

Oven-baked Guimaras Lapu-Lapu

1 whole lapu-lapu, approximately 2 kilos, cleaned and scaled
4 tablespoons calamansi juice
2 tablespoons oil

Combine calamansi juice and vegetable oil. Rub over lapu-lapu. Put fish on baking dish. Cover with foil. Bake in pre-heated 350°F oven for 30–40 minutes.

Sauce
1 c vegetable oil

Four cups baked fish, flaked

What is the trick to making lechon (roasted crispy)? Can I have a recipe? Mine comes out soggy.

GINA PILLA

1 kg lemon, whole
2 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper

Boil lemon in enough water; add salt and pepper and cook the same until fork tender. Once tender, leave the lemon in to soak.

Deep fry in hot oil. Make sure oil is hot before putting your lemon. Before temperature for oil is 350°F so it becomes the same consistency quickly.

If you are not frying immediately, keep the lemon in the freezer submerged in stock. Before frying, thaw and bring the pork to one boil before deep frying. The fact that it is submerged in stock makes the pork blister when fried and when it blisters, it guarantees a crisp kawali. So you could air dry the lemon out. From the stock, the wet lemon goes straight to the frying pan filled with hot oil (deep fry).

Once the popping stops, the kawali is ready.

Two weeks ago I wrote about Web and Tia, and completely forgot to give their telephone number and where it's located. My apologies! It's called Skeleton's!

For all those who e-mailed, here it is: Hamgat Lu Eden Place Mall, tel. 9102140, and Greenhill 2, 7207451.

By the way if you have not tried their cold shrimp and pasta salad, that's yummy, too!

E-mail the author at reggie@inquirer.com.ph

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

Witness the captivating talent of Rachel's testimony

Karina Habil

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DRANGE Julian Classic Smoothies are made from fresh fruits.

JUULS gourmet hotdog

PECAN Mudslide

The Queen is back

By Yvngie Bags-Reyes

REMEMBER THE ICE CREAM blended with generous portions of large chunks of Oreo cookies and M&M's candies?

The ice cream was poured into a cup and served upside down to show how thick and creamy it was, and finished off a single dog mould full of the flavor.

Blizzard, as it was called, is back!

Dairy Queen (DQ), maker of the popular blizzard, has been back in the Philippines for four months now under a new franchisee, the Araneta Group of Companies' food division, Philippine Pizza Inc. International Dairy Queen, Inc. (IDQ) awarded the franchise to the Araneta after years of negotiations.

"It's the best and the biggest ice cream chain in the world. So, why should we not get it?" said Jorge Araneta, chair of the Araneta Group. "We know people were happy with DQ products, so we are excited to bring it back to those who still crave its goodness."

DQ, which was out of the local ice cream

Dairy Queen's waffle cones

JULIUS Hontiveros (right), director of international marketing of American Dairy Queen Corp., and Tony Tiox, DQ's Asia marketing manager

THREEBERRY Blast

BANANA Split

Taxi meter should be in plain view

By Linda B. Bohol

INSTALLING THE METERS CAPABLE of issuing receipts is welcome news but something more basic should be done first. Meters should be installed in spots where passengers can easily read them—on the dashboard instead of being tucked underfoot, almost literally.

All over the world, meters are placed at eye level of passengers for how they are usually installed behind gearshifts. You have to be some kind of contortionist to read the fare. The location of the meter seems to scream drivers intimidate.

I have been in cabs where meters seem to be connected to the ground. Every time the driver shifts gears, the fare goes up (a taxi meter told me, though digital meters were supposed to be tamper-proof, ingenious Filipinos had managed to find ways to "improve" them running speed).

Sometimes, the driver turns off the meter before you can read the fare. You are left with no choice but to accept the driver's statement of how much you are supposed to pay, unless you have a good idea of what the fare should be.

I don't know about other people but I like to keep track of the amount registered in the meter so I can tell if it is running fast (I usually get off if I feel that the meter is cruising at an insane speed record). I also want to have the fare ready when the cab stops so I do not waste time searching for the right amount.

Waiting for Godot

One of the most stressful experiences for me is waiting for delivery of items I purchased or for technicians to service malfunctioning appliances.

Despite assurances they would arrive within a certain time period, they invariably show up much later.

THE CONSUMER

The other day, after waiting for more than a week for a new bed frame, the store finally called up to say I should expect it the morning of the following day. I called up the next day to confirm and was told to expect it that morning.

By 1 p.m. the item had not arrived. I was told to expect it before 5 p.m. I don't know what time zone they are in but 5 p.m. is way past morning, even by Filipino time.

I am willing to accept a promise as vague as morning or even afternoon but I am not willing to be told to expect delivery in the morning and then be made to wait until 5 p.m. is definitely unacceptable.

What many establishments do not seem to understand is that, in many households, everyone is off somewhere—school, office, market, church, club meetings, etc.—every day that delivery people cannot just show up any time they want is one more household to be waiting for them.

In many instances, waiting for delivery involves some inconvenience—schedules have to be recast, appointments canceled.

Then, it should be no surprise if, like me, people get so fed up when delivery people fail to show up when expected.

Advice

Regular reader Kenneth Santigan—to whom incentive checks due—are stamped on tickets issued by pay parking places. He said, in one such place, they arrived after 12 noon but he found out later that their parking ticket was stamped 11 a.m. They had to pay extra for exceeding the maximum time of three hours. Go admitted he was at fault for not reading the ticket. His advice is to check the parking ticket before leaving the car to the garage.

(Our regular columnist, Rhonie V. Glean, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City, PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbohol@inquirer.com.ph —Editor)

Start your day with dimsum

LUK YUEN DIMSUM HOUSE, BRANCH 12 celebrating its 25th year this month, now serves Chinese dim sum breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. every day only at Luk Yuen Mabuhay Tower Center, Plaza de Magallanes cor. Gamboa, Makati. For only P180, you can have a dim sum platter of chicken siopao, pork siomai, radish cake and sesame ball, a choice of hot-to-hot congee, Cantonese noodles or wonton noodle soup, and hot or iced tea. Silver Luk Yuen branches are at the Greenhills Shopping Center, Old Wack-Wack Building, E. Rodriguez and Kennedy, 2 Ayala Center branches.

HERITAGE CHEF'S Restaurant Riviera presents "Di

WALNUT LIP for the rainy days with the French Baker's cream Bacon Potato Soup, which is made with real potatoes and bacon bits, and served in a bread bowl. You may choose to sample the Spinach Fettuccini Carbonara, made from fresh spinach. The French Baker has over 30 branches in and around Metro Manila, including Pampanga, Dasmariñas, Metro Cebu, the new SM Clark and SM Mall of Asia.

American fare. "Jacket lunch or dinner at P560 per person. Dishes include Oven-baked Monterey Jack Chicken, Black Pepper Lamb, Chili Cup with Red Pasta, Ribs Kiapi with BBQ Sauce, Glazed Pork Leg with fruit and cream and Honey Pear Tiramisu with dark Chefs' Sauce. Call 8548899.

KINPURA offers its sushi sashimi selections in a 20 percent discount, July 16-31. Choices are sashimi and sushi combination, sashimi, nigiri sushi, maki sushi, and temaki. Kinpura has two remaining branches, authentic Japanese dishes for over 20 years. Open daily for lunch and dinner, the restaurant branches are at 3/L, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati (tel. 8922307, 8894040), and Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan (7215818, 7214888).

DINING

MEXICAN CULINARIA, Manila join Manila Spanish food festival, "Flavors of Barcelona," July 19-31. Diners will have the chance to win round-trip tickets for two to Barcelona, courtesy of Singapore Airlines or a Mediterranean cruise for two from Princess Cruises. Meanwhile, Sandoval now serves continental breakfast, 7-11:00 a.m., for P595.++ per person. Executive chef Patrick Valenzuela's Los Cerdos Magnificos' 8 Gourmet sandwiches consisting of Chicken Love Pate, Chili Tuna and Melted Gruyere Cheese, Tomato and Buffalo Mozzarella, Smoked Chicken Breast, Chicken Rillo, Salmon Hiding, Beef Burger and Club Sandwich. Call 8148711.

SAMURAI Yoshi presents new Japanese lunch box at P375. Choices include Sukiyaki, Ishi Yakiniku, Salmon Teppan, Beef Teriyaki, Tonkatsu, Tendershoe Steak, Kalbasi and Hunt Bacon tender loaves. Also available at Japanese Imaging Center Partners at P120. The ongoing Secondfloot Festival offers Sizzling or Grilled Secondfloot Steak, Secondfloot Steak on Black Bean Sauce, Fried Secondfloot with Secondfloor Fruity Sauce and Secondfloot Delivery at half off their regular prices. Located at Units B2 and B3, Eastwood City-walk, QC. Call 6913121.

CHEF THEODORE T. Fortin has Miguel presents "Pinoy Hot Pot." The Seafood Hot Pot costs P1180.++

Cooking demo in CDO

MARKET MARKET AT THE MALL will present "Learn, Cook and Earn," a free cooking demonstration on July 20, 1-4 p.m., at the Activity Center of SM Cagayan de Oro City. Chef Candy Lucot Candy's Cafe will share recipes for calamay or fruit-based specialties. The classes will also cover the basics of food costing and others.

Interested can enjoy samplings of Magnetic, Monterey and Pinoybelle items for an admission ticket at the venue.

Mobile Kusina at the Mall is sponsored by Monterey, Del Monte Classic, Magnolia Sandwich Classic, Purefoods Chunkee Canned Beef, Magnolia Chicken, Magnolia Butter Milk and Purefoods Supreme Hotdogs. Co-sponsors are SM Supermalls, Glad Wraps, Sti Stainless, Anchor and Selecta Cookware. Ms. Ethel Food Club members are encouraged to attend.

Call 8323008, 88 PUREfoods 2111, 406 404 and 408 or log on to www.mygreat food.com.

Seminars on cooking, food serving

Maya Kitchen will conduct the Waitering and the Cooking seminar on July 15, 20 and 28, 2-4 p.m. The course covers mothering etiquette, table setup, learning cut, napkin folding and stacking, identification of wine and cuts, types of glasses, mixing and serving of drinks, with special potpourri recipes as a bonus.

Maya will also conduct the four-day "Basic Culinary," July 18-21, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., that will cover, among other things, proper hygiene, sanitation and safety, and nutrition and nutritional cooking.

"Merengue Delights," to be conducted July 22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., will cover Samoa, Dulce de Merengue, etc.

"Fundamentals of Bakery Production" will be offered on July 25-28, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. It includes, among others, hands-on introduction on baking specialties.

"Advanced Cooking" will be held July 25-28, 2-6 p.m. It will cover advanced techniques for food safety, etc.

"Fine Baking Demo" will be held July 28, 9-11 a.m. It will feature pastry baking business, product application with Maya Mixes, etc. Pre-registration is required. Present three empty packages of any Maya mixes or textured Mixes.

"Bread Made" will be held July 29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday), 801 Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue, formerly Pasay Road, Makati City, or call 8851184 or 8850411 local 108. E-mail makatiwalkin@mayakitchen.com.ph.

CLASSES

Registration ongoing for seminar

Registration for ProActive Center's "Managing a Restaurant/Canteen Seminar-Workshop" and the "Managing a Catering Business Workshop" is ongoing.

Call 891 0098 or 911 70 40 to 50 to. Seminar fee is inclusive of manuals and handouts, workshop materials, and certificate of completion.

Workshops will cover planning the concept, menu, kitchen, layout and equipment, hygiene and sanitation, human resource development, costing, pricing and cost control, among others.

Garlic dishes and kebabs

The Reggie Aurrise School of Culinary Arts will conduct the following classes:

July 14—Garlic 'Bit (at least) Homemade Cheese and Garlic Bread, Roasted Garlic Soup, Mixed Greens and Cold Cut Salad with Fried Caesar Dressing, Roasted Garlic and Lobster Pasta, Braised Lamb in Garlic, Pork in Garlic Tomato Sauce, Sun-dried Tomato and Garlic Roast Chicken.

July 15—Wonderful Chicken Recipes (at least): Corn Bread Chicken, Citrus Infused Tea Sandwich Japanese Style Chicken with Lemon Grass Rice, Clay Pot Chicken, Grand Marnier Marinated Chicken, Curry Powder with Raisins.

July 17—Kebabs 'Bit (at least): Kebabs of Beef Wrapped in Angel Hair, Beef Liver Lamb Shish Kebab, Butter Chicken Kebabs, Mixed Vegetable Kebabs, Homemade Pita, salad, rice and sauces.

July 19—Harana (at least): Authentic Arroz a la Cubana, Prawns Calderata in Rum and Sugar Glaze, Chicken with Bananas (Pollo con Platanos), Pollo Locombillo (Ala Tall Stew), Mexican Rice, Cuban-style Flan.

Call 8266596, 817 0000, 0334 563

Jorge Araneta says they just had to get the best and the biggest ice cream chain in the world

...scene for two years, is now at the Food Express, S/L, Gateway Mall. It has a bigger customer counter and a wider selection of ice creams.

DQ also brought in Orange Julius for its fruit smoothies and gourmet frosting products.

Anton Bohlkamp, director of international marketing of American Dairy Queen Corporation, said, "DQ operates in 22 countries, but Asia-Pacific, led by Thailand with over 180 stores, is our biggest market. China comes next with 65 stores. Hopefully the Philippines will join the frontiers."

Satisfying treats

DQ has been making cold treats since 1950s in Kankakee, Illinois.

The Blizzard — ice cream with premium cookies and candy bits blended together — has become the top seller since it was put on the menu in 1985. The most popular Blizzard flavors include Oreo Cookies, chocolate chip cookie dough, M&M's, Reese's Peanut Butter Cup and Butterfinger.

"We recommend no gluttonous excess. Sundae has chocolate or strawberry syrup on top. Blizzard is ice cream and cookies mixed all the way through and that's what makes it unique. It is served upside down to show how thick our ice cream is. And we add very large cookie and fruit pieces so that every bite you get the real flavor," Bohlkamp said.

DQ's Blizzard has hundreds of different flavors globally. But, for the local market, DQ offers only a dozen flavor initially.

"We put the ones that we think are the best and especially formulated for the local taste. Eventually, we will bring in new and exotic flavors like cheesecake Blizzard, different chocolate chips, fruit toppings, brandied cookies and candies. Some will stay on the menu, some [will be available] for only a limited time," Bohlkamp added.

Aside from Blizzard, Dairy Queen also offers ice cream in waffle cones and bowls, Ices, Dilly Bars (ice cream on stick) and sundaes. Also on the menu are Frozen Dessert Parfait, a combination of creamy smooth DQ soft-serve ice cream with pecans and layered hot fudge, Banana Split, soft-serve covered in strawberry pineapple and chocolate toppings, with whipped cream, arranged between two pieces of sweet banana. Peanut Buddilde, a layered concoction of thick DQ soft-serve, sweet caramel, rich fudge and crunchy peanuts; and Mocaccino, a rich coffee and candied ice blended with thick and creamy DQ soft-serve ice cream.

"Most ice-blended coffee beverages are just ice and coffee mixed together," said Bohlkamp. "Our Mocaccino is a mix of ice, coffee and ice cream so it is a smoother, delicious cold coffee beverage."

The health conscious may be happy to know DQ ice cream is actually low in fat. It is 94-percent fat free. "If you totally have an ice cream, it's [either] fat free or low-fat. It's the flavoring and other add-ons that increases the calories," Bohlkamp said.

DQ ice creams are made fresh every day. A machine behind the counter supposedly churns out ice cream. At the moment, milk and cream come in from Thailand.

But Bohlkamp said, "As we add locations, we will be sourcing our dairy products in the Philippines. One of our goals is to support the Philippine economy. Sofia, some fruits are sourced locally such as bananas and oranges."

Available Orange Julius products include Julius Originals, classic smoothies blended and made with real fruits to create a smooth, rich and creamy drink.

The Orange Julius chain, maker of popular fruit drinks for nearly 80 years, was bought by DQ in 1987. After the purchase, DQ included Orange Julius drinks in many Dairy Queen stores.

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NASAL CONGESTION

Decongest. Decolgen.

A way with words

THE BISAYA PURYOSO MANGGAS, the Batangueño enamoras in the capital city will be inaugurated mid-July but we in-could't hold a chance to preview it.

We had to don masks as we would not inhale fumes from paint and dust from the carpentry work. We were asked to imagine huge photos that had not been put up and unveiled (some) not yet in place.

Anyone who has heard a Batangueño speak will know what the word puros means—the sinuosness, as well as the words.

Rustan Home Bazar, the curator and writer, explained that the focus of the mural was rural language. The last work was for the Philippine Pavilion of the World Expo 2005 in Japan where she, together with architect Ed Calma, was awarded the Gold Prize for the best designed Pavilion, beating more than 100 countries.

Her experience includes managing several exhibits, some for the National Museum, the Nayi Ritmo, the Ayala Museum. And now, for her home province, she has conceptualized a museum that will be the first of its kind.

History in 10 words

Fourteen words in Bisaya are Tagalog were selected to show the province's history and culture. Those of us on that early tour enjoyed "sala" and "gad" as for among those less familiar expressions were: ore.

Still, the words would be heard in the metro-rural tours, an area called Punta where one could hear the Batangueño way of speaking.

The chosen words are displayed in huge letters over specific sections. What some represented were easy to guess. Gerdo is for religious icon, dunit is for the singe.

Others had to be explained. Bisot should have the accent on the last syllable because it indicates something buried, a panoramic photograph of a field with trees, an old operated houses and an overgrowth of plants look fascinating until you learn it's the site of a mass burial of both rhetoric victims generations ago and those killed during the Filipino-American war in the early 1900s.

Kalumpang is not only the name of the three star-shaped in petiolar axis of the leaf but is also a tree that figures in fertility rites. While we discussed Batangas heritage, as well as the bullet meant for the visiting Governor General William Howard Taft that was still lodged in one of the ancestral house's pillars, we were entertained with an impromptu piano concerto by Antonio Buenc.

A peek into the outdoor kitchen let us witness the cooks' preparation of the Inasing Ambay. Boiled pork was cut into small pieces and flavored with a vinegar mixture. The difference is that pork and sometimes cow brain are added, all chopped up and mixed in. That makes for a richer Adasang Ambay, as we found out when we were called to the table.

The menu also included Batangas adobo, pork cooked in the usual way but colored orange with achuete (annatto). Ahe kaldkid was cooked in coconut milk. And the ginger had chopped lemon instead of calamansi to provide the sour flavor.

Fiesta colors

The fish, a tanakitok, was steamed and then dressed up the way it's done in fiestas. That would be mayonnaise on top and then red and green bell pepper, and hard boiled egg, yolks and whites separated, all chopped and arranged in bands by color.

In "The Alice B. Toklas cookbook," the author wrote about decorating the fish that way for Pablo Picasso, only using mayonnaise made red with tomato paste, eggs in the same way (yolks and chopped herbs. Which the Spanish artist said the fish done so, he said it should have been for Henri Matisse, the French artist known for his use of colors.

One dessert was saba banana sweetened with sugar and coconut milk. The resulting sauce was very much like caramel and partner with the vanilla ice cream that was served with the fruit.

And so finished, we went to visit the museum. Marian said to return for the formal opening. And, as if she read our mind, she said she would be inviting food again on that day.

E-mail author at pinoyfood@yahoo.com.

SULANGLAYO accompanied by Batangas adobo and goat-mung bits

Micky Fenix

COUNTRY COOKING

THE TABLE setting at the Panon ancestral home

Chinese cuisine and beyond

BEING SWEET AND SOUR FOOD fried rice—we've all enjoyed these Chinese favorites, whether in a Chinese country or Instant-style at a grand old Chinese restaurant. These days, trendy Chinese restaurants are going beyond the wind and wanted to introduce innovative concepts to Chinese dining. But it all started in Brussels where the Kang Kang Restaurant that opened almost 100 years ago under the same ownership.

Find out more about Chinese food—from recipes to kitchen equipments...from the latest issue of F&B World Magazine now available in newsstands around the country for P120.

F&B World is the country's only trade magazine for the foodservice industry read by F&B professionals, entrepreneurs and aspiring culinary students. In the latest issue, learn about food presentation trends, valuable tips in customer service, food safety in the kitchen and check out the latest software to manage your operations.

Inside F&B World is Baking Press Magazine, the country's first and only publication dedicated to baking, pastry and confectionary arts. The latest issue is all about bread, from puppet-style *pan de sal* to Pan de Manila to European specialty breads at the French Baker. Regular columnists Deny Enad, Jobelle Lim of The French Baker, Perle Ching, chef Dennis Hipolito and chef Sanie Italiano share their considerable expertise in a variety of topics.

F&B World and Baking Press are published bi-monthly by Diego Inquimboy Publications Inc.